



Laleham Lea Catholic Primary School

URN: 101834

Catholic Schools Inspectorate report on behalf of the Archbishop of Southwark

05–06 March 2026

Summary of key findings

Overall effectiveness

The overall quality of Catholic education provided by the school

Catholic life and mission (p.3)

How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission

Religious education (p.5)

The quality of curriculum religious education

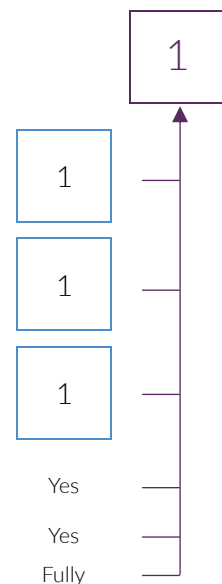
Collective worship (p.7)

The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school

The school is fully compliant with the general norms for religious education laid down by the Bishops' Conference

The school is fully compliant with any additional requirements of the diocesan bishop

The school has responded to the areas for improvement from the last inspection



Compliance statements

- Laleham Lea is compliant with the general norms of the Bishop' Conference in relation to 10% curriculum time.
- Laleham Lea School is fully compliant with the additional requirements of the diocesan bishop.
- Laleham Lea has fully responded to the areas of improvement from their previous inspection.

What the school does well

- The school is firmly rooted in Catholic values and a strong sense of family, which permeates all aspects of school life.
- Pupils are proud of their school and speak warmly about their experiences; they clearly benefit from the school's Catholic provision and the strong culture of care that surrounds them.
- Prayer and liturgy underpin the daily life of the school and are central to its mission and ethos.
- The quality of religious education lessons is excellent. Pupils demonstrate high levels of religious literacy and are given regular opportunities to engage spiritually, which fosters a deep and authentic sense of awe and wonder.
- Leaders at all levels are clear in their vision and deeply committed to the mission of the school; they model Gospel values in their relationships, decision-making and leadership of the community.

What the school needs to improve

- When implementing the new curriculum directory, planning should explicitly provide opportunities for pupils to engage in learning at greater depth in religious education.
- Feedback in religious education should be strengthened so that pupils clearly understand how well they are doing and what they need to do to improve their learning.

Catholic life and mission

How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission.

Catholic life and mission key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

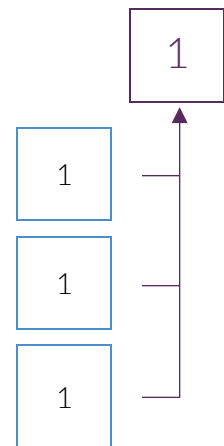
The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life and mission of the school

Provision

The quality of provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school



Laleham Lea is a deeply nurturing Catholic community. All members truly feel welcome and clearly benefit from the rich opportunities provided to live out their faith in meaningful ways. Pupil leadership groups play a significant role in shaping the spiritual and moral life of the community. The Little Disciples lead prayer and liturgy within classrooms and actively promote the school's focus on Gospel values, recognising and rewarding both pupils and adults when they see these values lived out in daily interactions. The EcoTeam demonstrate a mature understanding of their responsibility as stewards of creation. They speak confidently about their work caring for the environment as part of God's gift of creation, with one pupil explaining, "God created us to look after the world for him, we are the next generation." Their work is rooted in the teachings of Laudato Si' and combines education, social action and charitable outreach, including fundraising for WaterAid. The school's Mini Vinnies programme strengthens pupils' commitment to living out Catholic social teaching through practical service. Led by two dedicated members of support staff, this vibrant pupil group provides meaningful opportunities for pupils to plan and lead acts of social action within the school and the wider community. Recent initiatives include a Reverse Advent Calendar, which resulted in a substantial donation to a local food bank. Pupils are currently engaged in visiting residents at a nearby care home to read with them and share companionship. In preparation for these visits, pupils practised their reading with younger pupils, demonstrating both leadership and care for others. They joyfully shared a song that celebrates the mission of their group. Pupils speak with pride about their involvement in Mini Vinnies and recognise that they are using their gifts in the service of others. Pupils develop a strong understanding that faith is expressed not only in words but through action and service to those in need.

The mission statement is widely known and understood by pupils and staff and forms an integral part of the fabric of daily school life. It is evident in the quality of relationships across Laleham Lea and in the deep sense of community that characterises this welcoming environment. Staff and pupils alike embrace the mission of the school and consciously seek to live it out in their interactions with one

another. Staff provide excellent role models for pupils, demonstrating respect, compassion and integrity in all aspects of school life. Pastoral care is of the highest quality, pupils feel valued, supported and known as individuals. As a result, pupils flourish in an environment where they feel safe, respected and encouraged to develop both academically and spiritually. The strong culture of care and inclusion enables pupils to grow in confidence and to understand their responsibility to serve others.

Leaders and governors demonstrate a deep commitment to promoting and sustaining the Catholic life and mission of the school. They embrace their responsibility to ensure that the Catholic character of the school remains central to its identity and development. Through their clear vision and strong example, leaders actively promote Gospel values and ensure that the mission of the school informs decision-making at every level. Governors are well informed and play an active role in monitoring and evaluating the Catholic life of the school. Governors and local clergy are regular visitors to the school, to support with self-evaluation and also to support the teaching of Religious education. The school maintains strong links with the local Church, where children visit on a rota basis to celebrate mass with the community, supporting pupils' understanding of belonging to the wider Church. Developing links with local Catholic primary schools are also beginning to strengthen collaboration and shared mission. Laleham Lea attends local Catholic school partnership events and will host an Infant/Key stage 1 religious education day for the partnership in the summer term. Leadership of Catholic life and mission is highly effective and ensures that the school's distinctive Catholic identity continues to flourish.

Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

Religious education key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

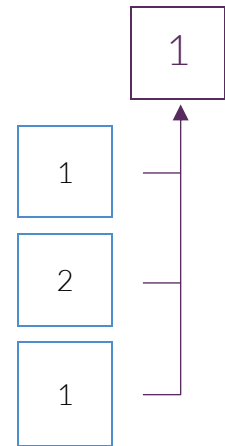
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education

Provision

The quality of teaching, learning, and assessment in religious education

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for religious education



Pupils demonstrate a strong understanding of what they have learned in religious education. They speak confidently about their learning, using key concepts and subject-specific vocabulary accurately. They are enthusiastic participants in lessons and show a clear commitment to deepening their knowledge and understanding of faith. Pupils approach religious education with interest and curiosity, engaging thoughtfully with the questions and ideas explored in lessons. During observed lessons, pupils were given opportunities to engage academically with the curriculum while also reflecting spiritually at an age-appropriate level. This was particularly evident in a reception lesson where true awe and wonder was created through the teaching of the story of Zacchaeus. This balance supports pupils in developing both knowledge and personal understanding. The introduction of floor books has provided an effective way for pupils to explore bigger theological and philosophical questions collaboratively, enabling them to record and revisit their thinking. As a result, pupils show confidence in discussing matters of faith and are able to make meaningful connections between their learning and their lives.

The quality of teaching, learning and assessment in religious education is good. Teachers recognise the important role that religious education plays in the moral and spiritual development of pupils and approach the subject with care and commitment. A teacher commented on how their role is "to give the pupils every opportunity to be the person God created them to be." Lessons are purposeful and pupils demonstrate high levels of engagement and motivation. Lessons observed showed teachers celebrate pupils' efforts and encourage them to contribute confidently to discussions and activities. – this was evident in a Year 6 lesson where pupils explored the Transfiguration through the artwork of Raphael, and made connections to Jesus' title of Messiah. As a result, pupils respond positively and demonstrate respect for the subject and for one another's ideas. The introduction of "Floor Books" has facilitated discussions of a philosophical nature and given pupils another medium through which to engage with their faith. However, while feedback recognises effort and achievement, it does not always provide pupils with sufficiently clear guidance on how to deepen their understanding further. More targeted feedback would enable pupils to better understand their next steps in learning and

support them in engaging with religious education at greater depth. Leaders recognise this as an area for development as they continue to strengthen practice across the school.

Leaders and governors at Laleham Lea ensure that the religious education curriculum is a faithful expression of the requirements of the *Religious Education Directory* and that the subject has full parity with other core curriculum areas. Religious education is clearly valued within the life of the school and is carefully planned and resourced. High-quality professional development, provided by the diocese and the Catholic Independent School Conference is prioritised so that both leaders and teachers continue to strengthen their subject knowledge and pedagogical expertise. The subject leader for religious education demonstrates a clear and inspiring vision for the development of the subject and possesses the expertise required to support colleagues effectively, this is evidenced in the development plan for the department and the reports given to governors. Through regular monitoring, evaluation and well-structured development planning, leaders ensure that religious education remains central to the school's curriculum and mission. Governors are supportive and well informed, contributing to the strategic oversight of the subject and ensuring that it continues to develop in line with the school's Catholic mission.

Collective worship

The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school

Collective worship key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

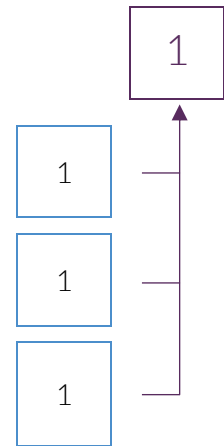
How well pupils participate in and respond to the school's collective worship

Provision

The quality of collective worship provided by the school

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for collective worship



Pupils at Laleham Lea engage deeply with the rich variety of prayer and liturgy offered by the school and participate with reverence, enthusiasm and confidence. They work collaboratively with their teachers to prepare thoughtful and creative experiences of prayer and liturgy. Year 6 pupils take particular responsibility by leading weekly prayer and liturgy for other year groups using the Wednesday Word resource, demonstrating maturity and confidence in sharing scripture and reflection. Classroom liturgies take place weekly and are prepared by pupils using high-quality resources that guide them in selecting scripture and choosing appropriate forms of prayer. Pupils are confident in leading liturgy and participating in a variety of ways, including reading scripture, offering reflection and sharing spontaneous prayer. A rota enables each year group to attend Mass regularly in the local parish, allowing pupils to pray alongside parishioners and their families as part of the wider Church community. The Little Disciples lead prayer and liturgy within classrooms and actively promote the school's focus on Gospel values, recognising and rewarding both pupils and adults when they see these values lived out in daily interactions. Pupil Chaplains play a significant leadership role in planning, delivering and evaluating school liturgies and support the preparation of prayer tables and resources across the school. Pupils of all ages confidently share both traditional prayers of the Church and their own spontaneous prayers, demonstrating a growing understanding that prayer is expressed through words, reflection and action.

Prayer and liturgy underpin the daily life of Laleham Lea and are central to its mission and ethos. Prayer is naturally embedded within the rhythm of the school day, week and liturgical year, ensuring that pupils regularly encounter meaningful opportunities for reflection and spiritual growth. Pupils engage creatively with prayer through a range of experiences, including artistic responses linked to the liturgical seasons, with high-quality artwork used to enrich displays and prayer spaces around the school. Pupils participate fully in liturgies, confidently using their gifts and talents. Singing is a particular strength of the community, with pupils singing joyfully both in traditional hymns of the

Church and in other forms of musical prayer during enrichment activities such as Mini Vinnies. The school provides a well-structured chaplaincy calendar that offers pupils regular opportunities to engage with the seasons and feasts of the Church's year. As a result, pupils develop a secure understanding of the Church's liturgical rhythm and recognise prayer as a central element of their relationship with God and their service to others. Displays around the school and in classrooms along with prayer focuses encourage pupils to engage in a variety of prayer styles.

Leaders and governors ensure that policies and practice relating to prayer and liturgy are carefully developed and implemented so that they support pupils on their individual journeys of faith. Opportunities to celebrate the Eucharist are offered regularly to the whole school community, and parents, families and members of the local parish are warmly welcomed to participate in these celebrations. Leaders monitor and evaluate the quality of prayer and liturgy effectively, ensuring that self-evaluation informs the ongoing development of the chaplaincy calendar and provision for collective worship. Staff are well supported through training and professional development, enabling them to facilitate prayer and liturgy with confidence while also nurturing and developing their own gifts in this area. Leaders also ensure that pupils are given opportunities to participate in significant liturgical experiences beyond the school community. For example, many pupils recently attended a pilgrimage to St George's Cathedral as part of the Jubilee Year of Hope celebrations, further strengthening their sense of belonging to the wider Church. As pilgrims of Hope pupils also led a fundraising initiative that ran at the school summer fair, where pupils made aids to prayer such as Rosary beads, stained-glass windows and Bible bookmarks, raising £500 for Cafod. Pupils and staff evaluate liturgy and acts of worship regularly which results in a wide range of high-quality prayer experiences for the school community.

Information about the school

Full name of school	Laleham Lea Catholic Primary School
School unique reference number (URN)	101834
School DfE Number (LAESTAB)	3066008
Full postal address of the school	29 Peaks Hill, Purley, Surrey, CR8 3JJ
School phone number	02086603351
Headteacher	Maria Reece
Chair of governors	Yvonne Epale
School Website	www.lalehamlea.co.uk
Trusteeship	Independent
Phase	Primary
Type of school	Catholic Independent School
Admissions policy	Selective
Age-range of pupils	3-11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	3 rd Oct 2019
Previous denominational inspection grade	Outstanding

The inspection team

Rachael Shields	Lead
Catherine Quirke	Team

Key to grade judgements

Grade	England	Wales
1	Outstanding	Excellent
2	Good	Good
3	Requires improvement	Adequate and requires improvement
4	Inadequate	Unsatisfactory and in need of urgent improvement