

A Commitment to Education

The Catholic Church is one of the first providers of schools and universities in the country and remains a fundamental part of our national education system.

Across England and Wales the Catholic Church is the largest provider of secondary schools, and the second largest provider (after the Church of England) of primary schools, therefore making up 10% of the total maintained education sector.

Catholic schools and colleges are established to support Catholic parents in their responsibility to educate their children in the Catholic faith. As well as providing a high standard of academic education, Catholic schools aim to instill within their pupils, morals values based on Christian teaching.

This is why the Church is committed to making Catholic education available for every Catholic child.

Catholic Education Service

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Education in Catholic Schools and Colleges

Why we should celebrate Catholic education





The Distinctive Nature of Catholic Schools

The Catholic Church is committed to providing schools which are rooted in the teachings of the Church. Catholic schools therefore aim to promote:

The Education of the Whole Person: Catholic schools aim to instill in their students a firm spiritual guidance which, combined with their academic education, will prepare them for their lives as Christians in the wider community.

The Education of All: A belief in the value of each individual means that Catholic schools have a duty to care for the poor and to educate those who are disadvantaged.

The Search for Excellence: Christians are called to fulfill their potential in all aspects of their lives. Catholic schools strive to offer students every opportunity to develop their talents to the full in all areas.

Key Facts

There are currently 2156 Catholic schools in England, educating 816,007 pupils.

There are 47,986 teachers working in Catholic schools and over 36,000 support staff.

Catholic schools are inclusive and reflect the vibrant diversity of the Catholic communities they serve: 36% of pupils in Catholic primary schools are from ethnic minority backgrounds. This figure stands at 30.2% in Catholic Secondary schools.

Remaining true to our mission to the poor, Catholic schools and colleges serve more pupils from the poorest areas: 18.4% of pupils in Catholic primary schools are from some of the most socially deprived areas, an increase of 92% on the national average. In Catholic secondary schools the figure is 17.9%. This is an increase of 49% on the national average.



Academic Education

Analysis of Ofsted data and statistics from the Department for Education shows that Catholic schools and academies generally outperform the national average in exam results.

At age 11, Catholic schools in England outperform the national average English and Maths SAT's scores by an increase of 5%.

This is echoed in GCSE results, where Catholic schools outperform the national average by an increase of 8%.

83% of Catholic primary schools and academies have Ofsted grades of good or outstanding. This is in comparison to a national average of 81%.

Catholic Education & The Law: Catholic schools are funded jointly by the Church and the State which is why the Catholic community works in close partnership with Central Government and Local Authorities.

The Church's commitment to Catholic education for every Catholic child means that Catholic schools and colleges have a legal right to draw up their own admissions policy; giving priority to Catholic children.

However, Catholic schools are not exclusive to Catholic pupils, and are based on inclusive Christian principles.

Currently, 30% of pupils in Catholic schools and colleges in England are not Catholic.