



# CARDINAL ALLEN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Cardinal Allen is an outstanding  
Catholic School

**Section 48 Inspection 2017**



# WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL

At Cardinal Allen we are proud to belong to a school community that offers rich challenge and extended opportunities to learn within a caring atmosphere of support for all students. The school is progressive, exciting and buoyant and provides an environment in which our students achieve outstanding levels of personal development. Pupils, parents, teachers and Governors recognise the importance of the school's Catholic and Christian education mission and we are all fully committed to it in every way.

We have the very highest expectations of our pupils. Our aim is to ensure that every student achieves their maximum academic potential whilst developing the spiritual and moral attributes required to help them grow and flourish as caring and active citizens. It would be a privilege for us to work closely with you in providing your children with life modelling opportunities in preparation for a successful and happy future in our multicultural society. A status enjoyed by many, many former pupils of Cardinal Allen.

Andrew Cafferkey  
Headteacher

Pupils are proud to belong to Cardinal Allen Catholic High School.

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The spiritual, moral, social and cultural education of students is outstanding and an integral part of school life.

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# CHRIST AT THE CENTRE OF OUR SCHOOL

Our core values are Christ-centred and reflect the traditional values and standards that are respected and expected within our ever changing world. In particular, we work tirelessly from day one to produce young people who show respect for themselves and each other; tolerance, courtesy and a high regard for those less fortunate than themselves. Because of this, our school is a family where students are enthusiastic, happy, highly motivated and show outstanding attitudes to learning and the needs of others whether they be members of our local, national or international communities. We openly encourage applications from families who identify with our inclusive ethos and celebrate the excellent contribution children and families from non-denominational or no faith backgrounds make to our community.

“Cardinal Allen is an outstanding Catholic School.”

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# SECURE, CARING, CHRISTIAN AND HAPPY ENVIRONMENT

Pupils are proud to identify with all aspects of the Catholic life of the school.

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Parents are overwhelmingly positive in their appraisal of the Catholic life of the school.

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# CARING AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT

In line with our Catholic ethos we vehemently believe that individuals will only flourish and achieve in an environment where they feel safe and valued.


We view all pupils as individuals and employ a very extensive pastoral system to address their specific needs. There is a clear hierarchical structure to the system that comprises Form Tutors, Progress Leaders and Pastoral Assistants, Senior Leadership Team, Deputy Headteacher and Headteacher. A fundamental aspect of the success of this system is the strong, mutual working relationships the school forges with parents and we openly invite all carers to contact the relevant key staff with any issues of concern.

In addition to the pastoral system, ALL staff both teaching and non-teaching regularly undergo intensive training on the Safe Guarding of Young People and are fully aware of appropriate actions.

# GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IRRESPECTIVE OF CIRCUMSTANCE, GENDER, RACE OR ABILITY

Students feel very safe. The school is rigorous in keeping all students safe. Students are cared for very well. The well-being of all students is as highly regarded as their academic success.

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Students behave outstandingly well. They are courteous and polite, relate very well to each other and to adults and are very happy at school

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## JUSTICE, ACCEPTANCE, TOLERANCE, RESPECT AND FRIENDSHIP

Although the school is progressive and visionary we are well aware of the detrimental effects of new technologies. Clear guidance and direction is frequently presented to pupils on the use, impact and dangers of new technologies and social media. This further enriches the wellbeing and safety of all our pupils.

# ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Our primary consideration is to provide a curriculum that best addresses the needs of our pupils and not the national league tables! The curriculum is diverse and stimulating and provides a very strong foundation in academic, creative and practical subjects. We believe teaching and learning experiences should be stimulating, enjoyable and innovative. A wide variety of teaching strategies personalise learning to ensure students fully access the curriculum, encouraging creative and independent approaches to learning. Teachers have high expectations of pupils and regardless of ability it is of paramount importance that all pupils fulfil their maximum potential. To help facilitate this we employ a policy of 'Stretch and Challenge' in all lessons.

The curriculum is a real strength of the school. The school revises its curriculum effectively in the light of the needs of its students

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Pupils are set challenging targets in all subjects and progress towards these targets is rigorously monitored across the curriculum. Underachievement is swiftly addressed with a wide range of strategies tailored to suit the specific needs of the individual.

Parents are kept well informed of their child's performance via a series of formal written reports throughout the year and an annual face to face progress meeting.

We openly encourage carers with any concerns about their child's progress to contact the school as soon as possible.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORK  
AND LEARNING THAT GIVE  
A SENSE OF SATISFACTION,  
ACHIEVEMENT AND  
SELF-RESPECT.**



# EXCITING PROVISION BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

We are totally committed to the holistic education of our pupils and believe experiences beyond the classroom have a major impact on a pupil's development. Nurturing inherent talent and unlocking hidden talents can have a hugely significant impact on a pupil's self-esteem, improving their emotional intelligence and raising academic aptitude.


We provide a vast range of extra-curricular activities to promote a sense of team work and personal achievement. This extra provision relates to every subject within the normal curriculum.

We also offer many far more diverse opportunities such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award and a wide range of clubs and organisations that work closely with the wider community.

Every year teams and individuals from Cardinal Allen achieve great success in a range of activities. We widely celebrate these successes but truly believe it is not the winning but the taking part that is most important. To this end all our activities are full inclusive and all pupils greatly encouraged to take part.

“ Student quote “I am very proud to wear the badge of Cardinal Allen on my blazer.”

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A photograph of two young women in school uniforms playing violins. The woman in the foreground is in profile, focused on her instrument. She has several badges on her uniform, including one that says 'LOVE BEACH'. The woman in the background is also playing a violin. The lighting is warm and dramatic, highlighting the wood of the instruments and the concentration on their faces.

## COMMUNICATION, CREATIVITY, PROBLEM SOLVING, DECISION MAKING

We also provide outstanding provision for residential trips within the UK, Europe and even as far afield as India and the USA. All these vacations have educational themes and can provide a once in a lifetime opportunity.

In addition, there are many and frequent day visits to centres of specific educational interest that relate to all areas of the national curriculum.

Once again these opportunities are available to all pupils.



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