

Get involved

If you feel inspired by Education Sunday to get more involved in Catholic education in your local area, here are a few practical things you can do to help:

- *Pray:* Please do keep the success and future of Catholic schools, teachers and students in your prayers throughout the coming academic year. Keep an eye out for school masses in your local church as an opportunity to pray together as a community.
- *Volunteer:* There are many ways you can help your local Catholic schools, on the PTA, as a classroom assistant or playground supervisor. You could also sign up to be a school governor for a school. For more information on how to volunteer, ask your parish priest or look on your diocese's website.
- *Donate:* At the end of every mass on Sunday 11th September, the retiring collection goes to continuing the excellent work of Catholic schools and diocesan education services in England and Wales.

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Education in Catholic Schools and Colleges



Distinct nature of Catholic Education

The Catholic Church is committed to providing a high quality education rooted in the teachings of the Church. Catholic schools all promote:

Religious Education in the classroom

RE forms a core part of the curriculum, promoting tolerance through understanding of all major world faiths alongside teaching Catholicism. Catholic schools develop religiously literate pupils able to think critically about their faith and how religion relates to their personal relationships and society.

Catholic values

The gospel values laid out by Jesus in the Beatitudes provide an authentic foundation for all Catholic schools. These values inform the whole life of the school, from RE and assemblies to classroom discipline. Catholic schools' success at promoting a tolerant, open environment for learning is demonstrated by their popularity with those of other faiths and none.

A holistic education of the whole person

Each school's mission statement explicitly roots the life of the school in the teachings of the Catholic Church. By promoting mutual respect for each other irrespective of background, schools seek to meet every pupil's pastoral and spiritual as well as academic needs.



All are welcome

Catholic schools are some of the most inclusive and diverse schools in England. There are currently 2142 Catholic schools in England, educating over 800,000 students.

Catholic schools reflect the diversity of the Catholic diaspora from across the world living in England, each bringing their own cultural traditions to enliven our local parishes and schools. **37% of students in Catholic primary schools are from ethnic minority backgrounds, 7% more than the national average.**

Catholic schools also continue in their vocation to serve the poorest in society, ensuring all children's skills and talents are nurtured and developed whatever their economic background. **17% of students in Catholic secondary schools are from the most deprived areas of England, significantly higher than the national average.**

Academic Success

By seeking to educate the whole person, Catholic schools bring out the many talents of their students, in and out of the classroom.

Thanks to the welcoming and supportive ethos of our schools, students in Catholic schools consistently outperform the national average in exams. Students from Catholic primary schools leave with English and Maths SATS scores 6% higher than the national average. This success is reflected in Catholic secondary schools across the country in public exam results. At GCSE students in Catholic schools outperform the national average by 5%.

The excellence of teaching in Catholic schools is apparent not only in individual students' results, but also in the grading of schools' Ofsted reports.

83% of Catholic secondary schools and academies have Ofsted grades of good or outstanding. This is significantly higher than the national average of 75%.

