



Diocesan Education Service

Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School
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Dear Mrs Morris,

Section 48 Monitoring visit: Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School

Thank you for the welcome you, the staff and pupils gave to Sarah and me when we visited the school on 26th March and for the information you provided for me during the visit.

The current senior leaders have taken effective action to address the recommendations from the previous section 48 report. The new headteacher, together with the existing staff and support from Saint Augustine's Teaching School, is ensuring that there is an accurate self-evaluation of standards in Catholic Life, Religious Education and Collective Worship.

The school has fully met the following recommendations:

- give a sharper focus to the evaluation and monitoring of Collective Worship to enable reliable implementation of recommendations;
- prioritise careful training and planning time for preparation of new and rigorous schemes of work in Religious Education.

The school has partially met the following recommendations:

- ensure that there is a consistent response by students to teachers' marking in a way that allows for dialogue and deeper reflection;
- create a firm on-going programme of formation for staff in the life of a Catholic school.

Recommendations and actions following the visit:

- Establish a staff Catholic Life Team;
- Develop further the opportunities for pupils to lead aspects of Catholic Life and Collective Worship;
- Develop pupil and staff understanding of how the virtues promoted in the Catholic Schools' Pupil Profile support the school's Catholic Values programme;
- Ensure the school environment enhances the dignity of the pupils and staff. As part of this recommendation, the school should consider re-developing the Peace Garden;

- Ensure that all year groups are taught Religious Education for 10% of the lesson periods;
- Increase the number of specialist Religious Education teachers;
- Ensure the planned support for students who have been impacted adversely by long term staff absence, is effective, particularly for groups whose examinations are imminent.

God bless.

Yours sincerely

Maureen O'Leary

Senior Adviser for Catholic Education (Section 48 Inspections)
Diocesan Education Service