

Inspection of Bishop Challoner Girls' School

352 Commercial Road, London E1 0LB

Inspection dates: 24 and 25 November 2021

Overall effectiveness	Good
------------------------------	-------------

The quality of education	Good
--------------------------	-------------

Behaviour and attitudes	Good
-------------------------	-------------

Personal development	Good
----------------------	-------------

Leadership and management	Good
---------------------------	-------------

Sixth-form provision	Good
----------------------	-------------

Previous inspection grade	Outstanding
---------------------------	-------------

This school was last inspected seven years ago and was judged 'Outstanding' under a previous inspection framework. This reflected the school's overall effectiveness under the inspection framework in use at the time.

From then until November 2020, the school was exempted by law from routine inspection, so there has been a longer gap than usual between inspections. Judgements in this report are based on the current inspection framework and also reflect changes that may have happened at any point since the last inspection.

What is it like to attend this school?

Pupils value their education and the opportunities to socialise and make new friends. Teachers expect them to work hard, and pupils describe most teachers as kind and helpful. Teachers in the sixth form give students extra tuition if they fall behind or miss school owing to illness.

Pupils are positive about the changes and routines that new leaders introduced. These have improved pupils' behaviour and attitudes. Inspectors saw calm, friendly and sensible behaviours throughout the day. Pupils are clear that staff do not tolerate bullying. When staff witness or hear about poor behaviour, they take swift action. Staff keep pupils safe. Pupils know that if they have any problems, they can approach their mentors, support staff or counsellors for help.

Staff teach pupils how to consider and deal with contemporary challenges. For example, through tutor time, assemblies and formal lessons, staff lead sessions on relationships. This content is delivered in an age-appropriate manner. Topics include how to form healthy relationships. Pupils are also taught to understand the nature of abusive relationships. These sessions also help pupils to understand the dangers of sending inappropriate images. Pupils learn about other important issues, such as consent. Older pupils were involved in creating some of the resources used. This makes them easily relatable to the school's younger pupils.

What does the school do well and what does it need to do better?

New leaders and governors are ambitious and have set high expectations for all. They quickly identified what aspects of the school's work were not strong enough. They set about making important changes and have brought about notable improvements.

Across the subjects, leaders plan in a logical order what they want pupils to know. There are plentiful opportunities for pupils to revise knowledge they have learned before. This helps them to remember important knowledge and make links across topics. In history, for example, pupils in Year 8 learn about slavery. They were able to make links to their learning in Year 7 about medieval English kings. They already understood the relationship between power and the exploitation of the poor.

Through training and collaboration with colleagues, teachers develop their expertise. They impart knowledge effectively, helping pupils to achieve well. They check pupils' understanding often. They use the information to adapt their teaching to address pupils' emerging misconceptions. Leaders make sure that teachers have a secure understanding of how to meet the needs of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). They receive training and bespoke information on how to adapt teaching for all pupils with SEND. This enables these pupils to access the curriculum. There is also a strong focus on giving extra support to those pupils who need extra help to read fluently.

Although the curriculum is broad, pupils stop studying some subjects at the end of Year 8. This means that pupils miss out on being able to deepen their knowledge in some subjects. Subject leaders are taking effective steps to address this. For example, they are reorganising subject plans so that pupils can study important subject content in sufficient depth.

In the sixth form, students can study a range of academic and vocational courses. From Year 7 onwards, pupils benefit from a comprehensive programme of impartial careers guidance. This includes past pupils who come back to speak to them about future career opportunities. Students leave the school well prepared to continue in education, training or employment.

Pupils are keen to learn and pay attention in class. Sixth-form students utilise the study room throughout the day. They do much independent study between their lessons. These positive attitudes help them succeed in their studies.

Pupils benefit from a range of opportunities that enrich their personal development. Staff teach them to respect all faiths and value diversity. This is exemplified by the school's provision of a multi-faith prayer room. The newly formed pupil council gives pupils a voice in the running of the school. Sixth-form students support and mentor younger pupils. The school hosts a lecture series with external speakers. These cover a diverse range of topics, such as science, law and the media. The school has been recognised and commended for being at the forefront of best practice in teaching about the Holocaust.

Leaders recognise that in making changes to secure improvement some staff may be working harder than before. They established a staff well-being group to see how best to support staff welfare. Governors have budgeted for this work to fund some of the group's recommendations.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff understand the issues facing pupils in the school. They know that they must report any concerns, however minor they may seem. This helps safeguarding leaders to check for any issues and patterns that indicate pupils may need help.

Leaders have well-established links with a range of external agencies. They make referrals in a timely fashion and work together to support pupils' safety and welfare.

Leaders make the necessary checks when recruiting staff to determine candidates' suitability to work with young people.

What does the school need to do to improve?

(Information for the school and appropriate authority)

- Although the curriculum in Years 7 to 9 is broad, it does not enable pupils to deepen their understanding in some subjects. However, it is clear from leaders' actions, including their work to develop subject planning and train staff, that they are taking the necessary steps to improve pupils' learning. For this reason, the transitional arrangements have been applied. Leaders need to build on their existing work to ensure that the curriculum in key stage 3 is as ambitious as the national curriculum.

How can I feed back my views?

You can use [Ofsted Parent View](#) to give Ofsted your opinion on your child's school, or to find out what other parents and carers think. We use information from Ofsted Parent View when deciding which schools to inspect, when to inspect them and as part of their inspection.

The Department for Education has further [guidance](#) on how to complain about a school.

If you are the school and you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

Further information

You can search for [published performance information](#) about the school.

In the report, '[disadvantaged pupils](#)' refers to those pupils who attract government pupil premium funding: pupils claiming free school meals at any point in the last six years and pupils in care or who left care through adoption or another formal route.

School details

Unique reference number	100978
Local authority	Tower Hamlets
Inspection number	10199446
Type of school	Secondary
School category	Voluntary aided
Age range of pupils	11 to 18
Gender of pupils	Girls
Gender of pupils in sixth-form provision	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	911
Of which, number on roll in the sixth form	269
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair of governing body	Father David Evans
Headteacher	JP Morrison (acting executive headteacher)
Website	www.bishopchallonerfederation.towerhamlets.sch.uk
Dates of previous inspection	1 and 2 April 2014, under section 5 of the Education Act 2005

Information about this school

- Since the previous inspection, there has been a high turnover of staff. The current acting executive headteacher took up his post in September 2021. He is the fourth headteacher since the previous inspection. There is also a newly formed governing body in place.
- The school is a voluntary-aided Catholic school. The last section 48 inspection took place in January 2017.
- School leaders are currently not using any alternative education.
- The school meets the requirements of the Baker Clause. This means that pupils in Years 8 to 13 receive information about the full range of education and training options open to them. This includes opportunities for a range of education and

training providers to speak to pupils about technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.

Information about this inspection

The inspectors carried out this inspection under section 5 of the Education Act 2005.

This was the first routine inspection the school received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Inspectors discussed the impact of the pandemic with school leaders and have taken that into account in their evaluation.

- Inspectors carried out deep dives in these subjects: mathematics, history, business and economics, modern foreign languages, and computer science. This involved discussions with leaders and teachers, visits to lessons, looking at examples of pupils' work and discussions with pupils, including students in the sixth form. Inspectors also considered other subjects as part of the inspection.
- Inspectors spoke with the chair and three other members of the governing body, a representative of the local authority, and held a telephone conversation with a representative of the diocese. The inspection team also spoke with the acting executive headteacher, the head of school, the deputy headteachers, the special educational needs coordinator and other school staff.
- Inspectors reviewed a range of documentation, including records relating to safeguarding and the checks carried out before the appointment of staff. Inspectors also looked at records of pupils' attendance and behaviour.
- Inspectors took account of the 13 responses to Ofsted Parent View, which included some written comments. Inspectors considered the 52 responses to the survey for staff. There were no responses to the pupils' survey.

Inspection team

David Radomsky, lead inspector	Her Majesty's Inspector
Brian Oppenheim	Her Majesty's Inspector
Yvonne Chisholm	Ofsted Inspector
Mark Smith	Her Majesty's Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for children looked after, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2022