

Education and residential inspection summary for Inspection of St John's Catholic Specialist School, Boston Spa

Church Street, Boston Spa, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS23 6DF

Inspection dates: 6 to 8 February 2024

Outcome

The education overall effectiveness judgement is: good

The judgement for the experiences and progress of children in the residential provision is: good

What is it like to attend this school?

- The nurturing ethos and warm, caring relationships make this school a happy place to be. Pupils enjoy coming to school. Staff know pupils extremely well. All pupils are valued. Their individual needs are carefully considered.
- Well established routines and clear expectations for behaviour help pupils to feel safe. The environment is calm and orderly. Pupils behave well. Staff provide effective support to pupils. They help them to understand and manage their emotions.
- Leaders are aspirational for all pupils. Staff share leaders' high expectations for pupils. There is a strong focus on developing pupils' independence and preparing them for adulthood.
- The curriculum aligns with the school's mission to, 'develop the entire potential of every person'. Pupils appreciate that they can access learning in ways that are comfortable and meet their sensory needs well. They learn a broad and ambitious range of subjects.
- Pupils like holding positions of responsibility as school councillors. They work with staff to suggest ways to improve the school. They like taking part in a range of fund-raising events. They enjoy the various lunchtime clubs and activities.
- The school nurtures pupils' musical talents. Pupils develop confidence through their musical performances. Sixth form students appreciate attending local colleges and taking part in work experience.

The inspectors made **one** recommendation to help the school improve, this is to further improve the curriculum by making sure that the knowledge and skills that pupils need to learn are clearly identified in all subjects.

What is it like to stay at this school?

- Children enjoy staying in the residential provision. The trusting relationships children have with the members of staff helps them to grow in confidence and develop their self-esteem. The nurturing environment helps children to feel safe, develop friendships, and have fun.
- Children's lives are enriched by staff encouraging and promoting the children's personal interests. They enjoy a wide variety of activities at the residence and in the community.
- The low stress environment in the residence helps children to make progress both socially and academically. Children learn a range of skills that help them to be more independent.
- Staff know the children exceptionally well. This gives children a strong sense of safety. Children do not feel bullied and are confident staff will keep them safe. When difference of opinion arises, staff help children work things through.
- The team's supportive and caring culture transcends into the care children experience. Staff ensure that the children's wishes and feelings help shape their experiences when staying in residence.

The school **meets all the national minimum standards.**

The inspectors made **one** recommendation to help the school improve. This is to further improve the quality of the children's plan by ensuring that the school hold all the essential information staff need to care for children.

- View the full inspection report for the education provision:
<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/25/108120>
- View the full inspection report for the boarding residential provision:
<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/10/SC001535>



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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

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E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
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