

# Sacred Heart High School

## Inspection report

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	100363
<b>Local Authority</b>	Hammersmith and Fulham
<b>Inspection number</b>	276295
<b>Inspection dates</b>	25–26 January 2006
<b>Reporting inspector</b>	Harriet Harper HMI

This inspection of the school was carried out under section 5 of the Education Act 2005.

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<b>Type of school</b>	Comprehensive
<b>School category</b>	Voluntary aided
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	11–16
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Girls
<b>Number on roll</b>	
School	
<b>Appropriate authority</b>	The governing body
<b>Chair</b>	Ms D Cooper Dr C T Carpenter
<b>Date of previous school inspection</b>	Not previously inspected
<b>School address</b>	212 Hammersmith Road Hammersmith London W6 7DG
<b>Telephone number</b>	02087487600
<b>Fax number</b>	02087480392

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<b>Age group</b>	11–16
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## Introduction

The inspection was carried out by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors and three additional inspectors.

## Description of the school

Sacred Heart High School is a popular, over-subscribed Roman Catholic comprehensive school for girls aged 11 to 16. The school has specialist status for mathematics and information and communication technology (ICT) and has been a training school since 2004. It is located in Hammersmith and Fulham and draws its intake mainly from surrounding boroughs. The proportion of girls from minority ethnic backgrounds is in line with the average for the local area. The number of pupils with learning difficulties or disabilities is low, as is the proportion eligible for free school meals.

## Key for inspection grades

Grade 1	Outstanding
Grade 2	Good
Grade 3	Satisfactory
Grade 4	Inadequate

## **Overall effectiveness of the school**

**Grade:**

### **What the school should do to improve further**

\* Further develop pupils' independent learning skills, including opportunities for pupils to use library facilities \* Improve provision for physical education

## **Achievement and standards**

**Grade:**

## **Personal development and well-being**

**Grade:**

## **Quality of provision**

### **Teaching and learning**

**Grade:**

The quality of teaching and learning is outstanding. Teachers plan very carefully to meet the needs of all pupils. Teaching is lively and challenging and provides pupils with opportunities to discuss ideas and think for themselves. Pupils have a strong work ethic and positive attitudes to learning. Their literacy skills are developed consistently in class and teachers use specialist subject vocabulary extensively. Higher-attaining pupils, along with those who have particular talents, are provided with opportunities to develop and extend their knowledge and skills both in class and through additional lessons. Very good support is provided for pupils with learning difficulties or disabilities and they make very good progress. Teachers make very effective use of interactive whiteboards and other resources to support learning in lessons. However, little use is made of the library to extend pupils' knowledge and research skills. Assessment is excellent. Work is marked carefully and teachers use encouragement and praise well to motivate pupils. Pupils know their strengths and how well they are doing in all their subjects. They speak positively about the individual pupil monitoring programme which tracks their progress at regular intervals during the year and helps them to identify areas for improvement.

### **Curriculum and other activities**

**Grade:**

The school offers a good curriculum which meets the needs of its pupils and the requirements of the National Curriculum. However, inspectors agree with the concerns expressed by a number of parents and pupils, regarding the limited curriculum time for physical education and inadequacies in accommodation and resources for this subject. The school acknowledges these weaknesses. Literacy skills are developed very well across the curriculum but pupils are not provided with opportunities to extend these through use of the library. Pupils speak very positively about the very good range of opportunities they have to develop and apply their ICT skills in all subjects. In recent years, significant changes have been made to the curriculum in Years 10 and 11. These include accelerated and additional courses, such as A/S level critical thinking, as well as vocational and work-related options. Outside of school hours the excellent range of activities is very well attended.

## **Care, guidance and support**

### **Grade:**

The very high quality of care, guidance and support is a key strength of the school. Systems for safeguarding pupils' health and safety are well established. Child protection procedures and awareness are very good. Those pupils with learning difficulties or disabilities benefit from a high standard of support. Younger pupils value the caring way in which they are introduced to the school as this allows them to settle in very quickly. In Year 7, they are supported very effectively by Year 11 peer mentors, who enjoy the responsibility associated with this role. The pastoral system is well organised and effective. As heads of year and tutors stay with the same group of pupils throughout their time in the school, they know every girl very well. Special care is taken to provide extra support for vulnerable pupils.

## **Leadership and management**

### **Grade:**

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### **Text from letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection**

Following our visit to your school we would like to thank you for your contribution to the inspection. When we met with groups of you, we took note of what you told us about what you liked about the school and what you thought could be improved. We also sat in and observed some of your lessons, as well as meeting Dr Carpenter and other staff and reading through some of your work. In addition, we looked at over 460 completed questionnaires sent to us by your parents.

As you probably know, we judged your school to be outstanding. It is exceptionally well led and managed. Between Years 7 and 11 you make very good progress and your exam results are excellent. This is because you attend school regularly, work very hard and have a positive attitude to learning. We were all very impressed with your behaviour. It is also because you have very good teachers. The way in which they plan their lessons to ensure that you all learn is excellent. They make their teaching really interesting and challenging and they check your progress in a very rigorous way. You support each other well and the adults in your school care very much about your well-being, as well as your academic success. You have a good range of courses during the day and an excellent choice of after-school activities. However, we think that facilities for PE could be improved, particularly as you have very limited time for this subject.

Your beautiful old building is equipped with some very modern computing resources and we know you use these facilities well. The library is not currently used and we think it should be, so that you can spend time working independently to further develop your skills in reading and research.