

What makes an excellent Catholic School?

BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

	Key Areas	Some indicators are
1	Ethos	 Vision and mission of school is clear and embedded Rich and varied prayer life The distinct ethos of the school is tangible Flourishing wider Catholic life of school Acknowledges and commits to the common good Many and high-quality opportunities to deepen and develop faith Clear examples of faith in action
2	Pastoral Care	 Children feel safe Effective care for the whole child Staff take every opportunity to show interest and care so children feel valued Pupil Voice is meaningfully listened to and acted upon Respectful relationships evident Particular care for the disadvantaged
3	Behaviour	 Pupils can learn: teachers can teach Clear and consistent boundaries and expectations Respect for self and others Clear pride in school identity, including uniform
4	Quality of Teaching and Learning	 Strong outcomes for all abilities Teachers have high expectations for all students, there is appropriate challenge Strong subject knowledge Accurate assessment and support shapes learning No 'bandwagons' Students remember their learning over time They can apply learning to new contexts and situations Students are openly enthusiastic
5	Curriculum/ Wider curriculum	 Rich and challenging content and opportunities for all regardless of background Key knowledge identified at every step Clear progression over time Clear well understood threads and links across subjects Rich and varied extra-curricular experience enhances the taught curriculum Spontaneous opportunities are taken to educate the whole child All children can develop their unique talents and interests Broadens children's horizons and raises aspirations

6	Leadership and	Rooted in Gospel values and lived out by our leaders who:
	Management	 Have high expectations for all and of all, they are committed to social justice Work courageously in the best interests of children and young people Live out servant leadership, working conscientiously and with genuine humility for the good of all children and staff Demonstrate care and compassion to all, they are kind showing respect, generosity of spirit, understanding and good temper. They give difficult messages humanely where conflict is unavoidable Are trustworthy and reliable because they always act with integrity and should be beyond reproach Are optimistic, positive and encouraging, despite the pressures and challenges that come their way Are clear and strategic Demonstrate sound judgement and decision making based upon experience, knowledge, insight, understanding Consciously seek to develop new leaders of all levels Listen and consult, communicate clearly in an open and transparent manner
7	The development of staff	 Is truly developmental and does not judge Develops shared culture and values Led by evidence not fads Encourages people to be creative and test new ideas Well-structured development opportunities throughout career Clearly identified career pathways Bespoke to individuals Talent is spotted and given opportunities to flourish across the school and Trust All staff are valued and cared for
8	Clear, well understood systems, including continuous evaluation and assessment	 Clear expectations and routines are embedded Any systems simple and straightforward Streamlined, no repetition Constant review and improvement cycle New initiatives are given time to embed Purposeful and informative use of any data
9	The built environment	 The environment communicates high standards and values Captures the distinctive Catholic identity of the school Obvious pride in the physical environment Buildings are creatively used and developed Clean and well cared for Vibrant, purposeful learning environment impacts positively on learning
10	External links	 Proactively looks for ways to improve Seeks out useful networks Learns from and with other schools Contributes enthusiastically to support other schools