



St Philomena's  
Catholic High School for Girls

“An Exceptional School”  
Ofsted



‘The school provides a distinctive and outstanding Catholic education to all students.’  
Denominational Inspection Report - December 2018



'The Catholic ethos and gospel values influence every aspect of school life.'

Denominational Inspection Report - December 2018

# Headteacher's Welcome

Parents / Carers, It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to St Philomena's Catholic High School for Girls. Choosing a secondary school for your daughter will probably be one of the most important decisions you make as a family..

St Philomena's is a truly vibrant and aspirational community of learning and faith. We seek to provide opportunities for all our students to achieve their very best, to grow in confidence and become independent young women. Our students are encouraged to be ambitious and to have high aspirations. We actively encourage them to take a lead role in their education and develop their learning whilst maturing into confident, resilient, resourceful young women able to face the challenges of our modern world.

Our curriculum has many pillars as demonstrated below to ensure the totality of a student's experience is rich with breadth and depth. It is designed to ensure it meets the needs of all learners with an excellent range of subjects and progression through the keystages. We encourage students to be inquisitive, open to new ideas and curious in their learning.

Students at St Philomena's succeed regardless of their ability. We know our students well and we know how they learn best. Our success is due to our strong collaborative working partnership with home and parish. We value parental contribution and aim to ensure that parents/carers are fully involved in helping their daughter to make progress and realise their potential, so they are able to make informed decisions about their future and life after St Philomena's.

Our students are our greatest ambassadors; the vast majority progress to our Sixth Form and thereafter to university, higher level degree apprenticeships in specific fields or further education. We have a very active alumni network.

We are very proud of our students and their ongoing achievements; the values they share make our community unique and special.

I look forward to welcoming you and your daughter to our school.

Yours faithfully

Ms M Noone BSc (Hons) MBA  
Headteacher

*M. Noone*

## Pillars of Our Curriculum

Taught Curriculum

Additional Learning

Cultural Capital

Progression and careers

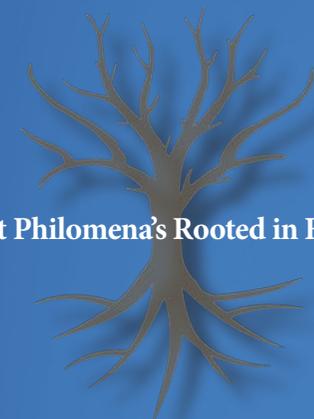
Reading, Oracy, Numeracy  
and Digital Literacy

Fusion Skills

PSHE

Mission Statement, Aims and Values of the school

'St Philomena's Rooted in Faith'





# Pastoral Guidance & Support “Belonging”

The pastoral provision at St Philomena's is a real strength of the school, it is designed to be inclusive and to give each individual a sense of belonging. It is well co-ordinated, planned and resourced to ensure the physical and emotional welfare of your daughter is nurtured, so she feels safe, happy, involved and able to perform to her full potential.

Our team of tutors ensure that every individual in our care is known personally by name and that guidance is given to all. Each Year group has two Heads of Year, an Academic Lead and a Well Being Lead who monitor academic progress and excellence and the wellbeing of every young person. This enables every student to receive the care, focus and attention they need in order to flourish and grow.

Every student at St Philomena's is a member of a House. Many House activities (assemblies and competitions) are led by our Sixth Form House Captains. Houses also adopt House Charities and raise considerable sums of money each year. The House system is another opportunity for our young people to be of service to others and to interact with each other outside of their form class or teaching set.



“ Student welfare is excellent;  
our daughter is blossoming in  
a friendly happy environment. ”

Year 7 Parent

*“Nothing great is ever achieved without enduring much.”*

St. Catherine of Siena

# Curriculum

## “Achieving”

The curriculum at St Philomena's is designed to inspire students to develop enquiring minds and become lifelong learners. It supports our Catholic ethos, where every student, irrespective of their ability, is supported and challenged to achieve their full God given potential.

The curriculum is dynamic, which means it changes to meet the needs of learners and offers both breadth and depth to enable students to become imaginative, energetic and successful learners. Inside and outside of the classroom our students are challenged to become critical thinkers. They are encouraged to use a range of learning resources and thinking strategies, including collaboration, to solve complex problems. Students reflect on their learning and identify how they can apply previous learning to new situations.

The curriculum actively supports learning beyond the classroom through many visits, field courses, visiting speakers, conferences and trips, all designed to make the learning experience more enjoyable and memorable. These activities, supplemented by our Anywhere Anytime Learning digital strategy enable students to make excellent progress. St Philomena's is recognised as being in the top 5% of mainstream schools nationally for progress.

The curriculum is delivered over a two week cycle, organised into a 25 period week. Our broad and balanced curriculum exceeds the requirements of the National Curriculum. This enables our students

to experience an enriched curriculum that raises aspirations and expectations. Our flexible and challenging curriculum underpins the success of the school in preparing our students for life in the 21st century.

Throughout Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9) all students will study Religious Education, English, Maths, Science, Drama, Computing, Design and Technology, Art, History, Geography, Music, Modern Foreign Languages, Physical Education and Personal, Social, Health and Careers Education (PSHEC)

At Key Stage 4 (Years 10 - 11) all students continue to study the core subjects of RE, English, Maths, Science, MFL, Humanities and Core PE. They will also choose GCSE's to study from a wide range of option choices that could include additional subjects such as Business Studies, Computing Health and Social Care and Sport.

For our Sixth Form Curriculum please see our separate Sixth Form Prospectus.

“My confidence and initiative to do things have increased. The teachers are brilliant and motivate me to excel.”

Year 9 Student







# Extra-Curricular “Leadership & Exploring”

St Phils+ is the name given to our additional learning programme available to all students. Extra-curricular activities form a key part of learning. We run a varied and extensive extra-curricular programme with a strong expectation that all students will partake in at least one extra curricular activity.

Studies have shown that students who participate in extra-curricular activities have a marked improvement in their academic studies. This can be attributed to skills they learn such as better time management to accommodate their interests and class activities, better organisational skills and a boost in their self-esteem and sense of belonging. This can also be attributed to the fact that students who participate in extra-curricular activities commit themselves to a particular activity they get involved in.

With such a wide range of additional curricular learning on offer, we are confident that students will find the right extra-curricular activities to explore further and commit to in their young adult life.

Students also have ownership over their extra-curricular offer and are expected to log their participation and achievements through a school app called 'Carpe Diem' translating to 'seize the day'. Each year students build their profile which help to inform their UCAS personal statements and applications for the world of work when they leave St Philomena's post 18.

“The world tells us to seek success, power and money; God tells us to seek humility, service and love”

Pope Francis

"The internet is a gift of God which involves a great responsibility."

Pope Francis

# Technology "Evolving"

The school has a strong, effective and continually evolving digital strategy that supports learning both in school and at home.

Our aim is for all students to have access to technology and to improve their digital literacy within their lessons, and for it to be used to allow students to become confident and responsible users of modern technology. Promoting effective communication, online safety, independence, resilience, collaboration aids all students in becoming lifelong learners in this modern digital age.

As a Google Reference School we promote our Anytime, Anywhere Learning strategy to all learners with the use of the G suite for Education. There are a variety of apps to assist with organisation, collaboration and engagement. Students can login either at school or at home and access their work anytime, anywhere. Our scheme aims to equip each student with a Chromebook to use in school and at home to assist with school work. Digital skills are blended with the more traditional ways of learning, so our young people effectively have the best of both worlds when being educated.

The huge potential of digital education, coupled with continually developing digital capability and key digital skills is crucial for the 21st century learner.

**"My daughter has had so many great experiences, thanks to the hard working dedicated staff at St Philomena's."**

Year 11 Parent



**Google**  
for Education

Reference  
School

# Spiritual Life

## “Serving”

In the words of St Francis of Assisi 'it is in giving that we receive' and at St Philomena's we combine academic excellence with a wide range of opportunities to give back to the community.

This can range from acts of charity within the school such as Peer Mentoring and Student Leadership, to serving those in the local and global community through our House Charities. Each year students raise and give generously to share the message of God's love to our neighbours in need. This is very much in keeping with our Foundress, Blessed Marie Thérèse, who said that 'love of God can never be separated from love of neighbour'. Furthermore, our chapel acts as the spiritual heart of the community offering space for giving praise to God through weekly Eucharistic Adoration, the Rosary, Benediction and Holy Mass. Our liturgies are rich and supported by a number of choirs including the Chapel Choir, Junior Choir and Gospel Choir.

Whilst we encourage students at St Philomena's to take part in acts of charity and service, we also aspire, and it is our hope, that students at St Philomena's become global citizens by embracing the school's Core Values of Community, Happiness, Generosity, Kindness, Forgiveness, Faith, Resilience, Achievement, Integrity and Fairness.

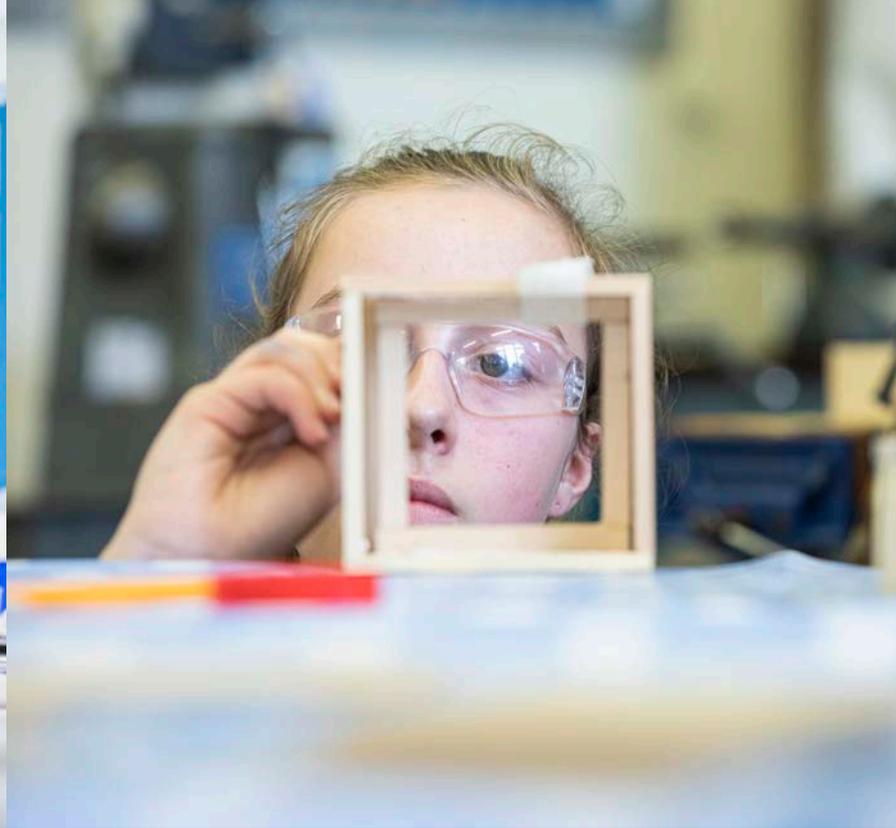
St Philomena's has a very rich and proud tradition of delivering outstanding Catholic female education. We firmly believe that our ethos continues to form, influence and drive a world class education which prepares young women of faith for an ever changing global world.

We believe that the greatest gift we can nurture in a young person is the gift of faith. A true blessing has been bestowed on our world when a young person leaves St Philomena's with the ability to consider others before self and to contribute in life to the 'common good'

*“God has created me to do Him some definite service.”*

St John Henry Newman





“ Our daughter has felt at home since joining St Philomena’s, the support you have offered her has been fantastic. ”

Year 9 Parent



For more information visit:  
<http://www.stphilssixthform.org.uk>

# Sixth Form

## “Aspiring”

St Philomena’s has a large all female Sixth Form which enables all students to reach their full potential in a very high-achieving academic environment in which students can choose from a broad range of qualifications whilst engaging in highly individualised and challenging learning.

As well as traditional academic A Levels, our curriculum offer includes the highly successful optional learning opportunities such as ‘Maths in Context’, ‘Further Maths’, ‘Extended Project Qualification’ (‘EPQ’), ‘Sports Leadership Programme’ and a carefully selected range of vocational courses. The Sixth Form areas are well resourced and include extensive support for online learning.

Students who join St Philomena’s Sixth Form from other schools inevitably say how welcome they are made to feel and how quickly they settle in. There is a clear transition programme from Year 11 into Year 12. The PSHEC Programme is excellent, and includes a focus on day-to-day tasks such as financial planning, critical thinking skills, as well as a wide range of subject specialist guest speakers who are experts in their respective fields.

Our Sixth Form extracurricular programme offers extensive opportunities for learning outside of the classroom. There is a well-established Sixth-Form Lecture Programme whereby a wide range of experts, including many from Higher Education, are welcomed to talk about careers ranging from Law to Medicine, as well as tasters of undergraduate courses which enrich students’ knowledge and understanding of their academic studies in the Sixth Form. Students actively apply this new-found knowledge to their learning and their applications to university.

Students are extremely well supported and guided towards their best possible future pathway, whether that be an undergraduate degree at a Russell Group university, or an apprenticeship with a highly regarded company or industry. There are two separate opportunities for work-experience placements. The Careers support and guidance for Sixth-Form students is exceptional. Students attend both internal and external events designed for those applying to universities as well as apprenticeships or the world of work. We have a strong record of widening participation to university for the students in our care through our work with a range of higher-education providers such as King’s College, University of London; ‘Sutton Trust’ and ‘Target Oxbridge’.

Students have the opportunity to continue their faith journey, they make a very strong contribution to the school and local community. There is a Student Leadership Team, and Sixth Form students lead a range of Societies. Overall, we provide a stimulating learning and teaching environment in which every student enjoys their education, with the aim of becoming a lifelong learner.

Our students say that they are encouraged to ‘aim high and believe in their goals’, and enjoy an ‘overwhelmingly positive and purposeful learning experience’ with excellent standards of behaviour and engagement in learning.

“Start being brave about everything. Drive out darkness and spread light.  
Don’t look at your weaknesses. St. Catherine of Siena



“ St Philomena’s is a great school... my daughter is very happy, taught and looked after so well, I couldn’t be happier” ”

Year 9 Parent

Psalm 127:

“ Unless the Lord build the house, they labour in vain who build it ”

St Philomena’s Catholic High School for Girls was established by the Daughters of the Cross of Liège. This congregation was founded by Blessed Marie Thérèse Haze.

“Have courage, don’t lose heart” Blessed Marie Thérèse

# Mission Statement

*Nisi domini aedific vanum*

St Philomena’s seeks to be a community where every member flourishes in the truth, wisdom and love revealed by Jesus Christ in the Catholic Church. Through our work and shared life together each member is enabled to respond to the unique call from God to grow in holiness, personal fulfilment and loving service. We seek excellence in teaching and learning in all aspects of school life and hold that each person is a gift from God, to be treasured and deserving of respect and dignity.

## Our Mission is:

**To develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ - to seek Him, to know Him, to love Him and to serve Him.**

*To pray is to encounter Jesus and to be united to him as he prays to his Father through the Spirit.*

Constitution of the Daughters of the Cross No 74

**To continue the unique legacy of the Daughters of the Cross in providing a great holistic education to equip women for their future and eternal life.**

*Pay special attention to the signs of the times; be alert to the growing needs of the world.*

Constitution of the Daughters of the Cross No 10



**To enable each person to become the person God calls them to be.**

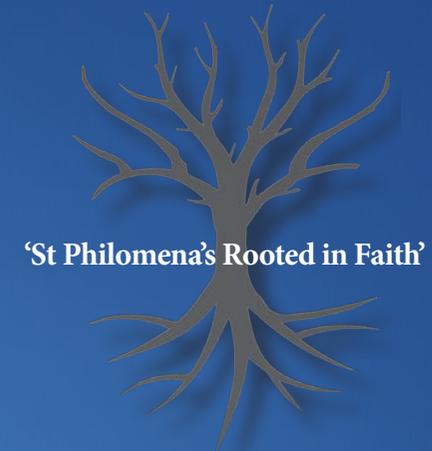
*Our vocation, a free gift from God, is a call and a mission. To respond means to commit the whole of our life to God according to the spirit of the Gospel. It reaches completion in the glory of heaven.*

Constitution of the Daughters of the Cross No 15

**To bring the presence of Christ to others**

*The Daughters of the Cross never separate the love of God from the love of people, they show that those who truly love God also love their neighbour.*

Constitution of the Daughters of the Cross No 5



‘St Philomena’s Rooted in Faith’

# Core Values

The school’s Core Values, developed by students, governors, teachers and staff emanates from the very foundation of ‘Service’ laid by the Daughters of the Cross. These Core Values should be visible in each person throughout the school as Christ is the centre of each school day, in the classroom, on the corridors, in the playground and on the buses, even in our homes. One should be able to identify a Philomenian through their attitude to life and the relationships they develop, grow and nurture.

**Community, Happiness, Generosity  
Kindness, Forgiveness, Faith  
Resilience, Achievement, Integrity  
and Fairness.**

