



The Barlow RC High School

"Learn, Achieve, Succeed"



Our School

“ A school that really cares and supports children to achieve their full potential, delivering their motto: “If you believe you can achieve.”

(A Year 11 Parent)



The Barlow is an 11-16 school situated in East Didsbury, Manchester. Established in 1985, the school is a Catholic, co-educational, voluntary aided comprehensive that is part of the Salford diocesan family of schools.

The Barlow is a diverse and fully inclusive community and, as such, we welcome pupils of all faiths and none. We are a high performing school, and this was recognised by Ofsted in June 2019 when The Barlow was judged to be at least ‘Good’ in all areas. Our vision is to create a school community based on Catholic principles, where everyone works together to provide a happy, supportive, and productive learning environment. This is underpinned by our Core Values of:

SERVICE – PRAYER – ACHIEVE – RESPECT



“ The pupils at this school make good progress. Pupils made much better progress than others nationally in English, History, Geography, French, and Spanish. *(Ofsted 2019)*





“ Leaders set and support a culture where pupils are aspirational, considerate of others and hard working. *(Ofsted 2019)* ”

A personal welcome from the Headteacher

“ The Headteacher and Deputy Headteachers provide especially strong leadership. They have instilled a culture of high standards, reflection and ambition amongst staff. ”
(Ofsted 2019)



As Headteacher of The Barlow R.C. High School, I would like to extend to you a very warm welcome to our community.

The Barlow provides an excellent Catholic education for young people in Manchester and the surrounding area. We are a school which embraces Christian values, fosters academic excellence, insists upon high standards and ensures the highest quality of teaching and learning. We have an experienced, highly skilled, and committed teaching staff, who set consistently high expectations and provide a superb learning environment for all our pupils, regardless of their academic ability. We pride ourselves in our relentless drive to ensure that all pupils flourish in our care, and grow into well-rounded, respectful, confident, successful young people. This achievement is built on the close partnership we form with parents and carers to ensure the best possible education for each and every one of our pupils.

The school has been at the heart of our community for over 35 years. We are excited to welcome you, and your child, as a prospective member of our Barlow family. We are confident that we will enable them to fulfil their potential and prepare them to embrace the next stage of their educational journey. We look forward to working with you to realise this ambition.

This prospectus will give you a very brief flavour of the range of opportunities we offer and will highlight what makes The Barlow such a successful and special place to learn. However, we invite you to visit us to see for yourself our vibrant, happy, and purposeful environment in action. Please contact the school to book a tour. We look forward to meeting you.

Ms C Wallace
Headteacher

Our pupils are our Greatest Asset

“ Pupils are confident to think creatively and equipped to grapple with and grasp complex ideas.
(Ofsted 2019) ”

We are extremely proud to provide a positive and caring environment for our pupils where they feel safe, happy, and able to succeed.

Our pupils are our greatest asset. They are rightfully proud of the community to which they belong. Their response to the wealth of opportunities and the high-quality teaching they receive, results in excellent academic achievement, of which we all can be justly proud. Our mission statement is, 'If you believe you can achieve' and this thread runs through all we do within our community. At The Barlow, we help our pupils prepare for life beyond their secondary school education through ensuring they are happy, responsible, independent, adults able to contribute constructively to society.



“ Almost all pupils move on to aspirational next steps in education, training or employment.
(Ofsted 2019) ”



Teaching & Learning and the Curriculum

“Pupils of all abilities, including the most able pupils, make good progress. Pupils are highly motivated and typically learn with great enthusiasm. (*Ofsted 2019*)”

At The Barlow, we set high expectations to ensure that every pupil excels across all aspects of school life, with Ofsted in June 2019, commenting, ‘teachers support pupils’ high standards and good attitudes to learning’. Our intention is to ensure pupils make outstanding progress through a broad, balanced, and inclusive curriculum that removes any potential barriers to learning. Our pupils leave with the knowledge and skills which will not only create excellent life opportunities but will also inspire, challenge and safeguard them, and prepare them for life in modern Britain, encouraging lifelong learning, so that all pupils may ‘have life and have it to the full.’ (John 10:10). With our commitment to exceptional teaching and learning, our pupils develop the resilience, confidence, and independence to not only succeed within their academic life, but to have a positive contribution to British society and future successes.

Our curriculum implementation centres on a carefully planned and structured sequence of learning, which is the foundation upon which excellent progress and development is built. The curriculum is designed and implemented in such a way that it builds on prior knowledge, focuses on deeper learning of key concepts, and prepares pupils for the next stage in their education. This ensures that lessons are engaging and suitably differentiated so that pupils spend the large majority of time in lesson

working independently at their level of ability. Each topic has a planned journey with clear statements setting out what pupils need to know, understand and be able to do to reach their aspirational target grade. Moving into Key Stage 4, pupils continue to have a broad curriculum offer available to them through the options process, which provides both academic and vocational opportunities for pupils’ learning.

The Barlow’s high-quality curriculum, delivered through insightful teaching and learning, promotes the achievement of progress scores above national levels and was judged as ‘Good’ by Ofsted. Furthermore, we strive to support the development of our pupils and their lives beyond the walls of the school, through a comprehensive RICH programme which encompasses CEIAG (Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance), PSHCE (Personal, Social and Health Education) and SMSC (Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural) themes. We pride ourselves at The Barlow at being able to provide a wide-reaching and diverse curriculum and this has led to our pupils achieving outcomes consistently above other pupils nationally.

“The wellbeing of Barlow students is taken very seriously. We have such a supportive environment and our teachers and staff are always on hand to help students whenever they need it. (*Matilde, Head Girl*)”

Pastoral Care

“Pupils are courteous, happy and confident.
Pupils’ behaviour is good. (*Ofsted 2019*)”



At The Barlow, we are fully committed to ensuring that all our pupils receive high-quality pastoral care to support and safeguard them on their academic journey to success, whilst enabling and encouraging them to grow and flourish into confident, empathetic and kind young adults, ready to take their place in society and make a valuable contribution to the world in which they live.

Our Catholic school defines our mission and we seek to provide a place where all pupils feel a sense of belonging and are part of a ‘family’, so each pupil is assigned to a ‘Family Group’ and has a ‘Family Tutor’, who they see each day, and who is the pupil’s initial source of pastoral support in school. Positive relationships with staff underpin this support, with Ofsted in June 2019, commenting that ‘*pupils respect their teachers and one another.*’

The mental health and wellbeing of pupils is paramount and, as such, we provide an extensive support offer. This includes a comprehensive mentoring programme, led by our Pastoral Support Assistants and fully

trained Mental Health First Aiders, RAINBOWS bereavement as well as a range of study support interventions. Within the Learning Support Faculty, we have our Hive provision, where identified pupils are able to access additional support such as literacy and numeracy, speech, language and communication skills work, sensory intervention, and provision to support their mental health and wellbeing. Mindfulness sessions take place weekly during Family Time as an integral part of our Personal Development and PSHE curriculum.

Additionally, there is a wealth of peer support available to our pupils. Our Year 11 Prefect Team and Young Leaders ensure that our pupils are kept safe and are well catered for. Our GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) Team and Anti-Bullying Ambassadors work in tandem to continually drive our whole-school values of Service, Prayer, Achieve and Respect and we are extremely proud that this has been recognised on a national level via their incredible achievements in securing both The BIG (Bullying Intervention Group) Award and the prestigious Diana Award 2019.



“Teachers support pupils’ high standards and good attitudes to learning. (*Ofsted 2019*)”





Personal Development

“Pupils understand and value people’s differences, other faiths and cultures. *(Ofsted 2019)*”

The Barlow recognises the importance of educating the whole-child and, as such, we provide a wealth of opportunities for pupils to develop both academically and personally. Our Personal Development offer, whilst recognised as a strength of the school by Ofsted, has been further enhanced this academic year. We strongly believe in developing pupils’ interests, talents and skills by providing them with a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities, particularly in the area of leadership. Pupils have the opportunity to become leaders in sport, chaplaincy, literacy and teaching and learning. They can also become members of the influential Student Council.

A road map outlines the Personal Development journey that pupils will undertake during their five years at The Barlow. Character Education is integral to this, allowing pupils the opportunity to learn beyond the classroom and outside of the school itself. Personal, Social, Citizenship and Health Education, coupled with excellent teaching of Relationships Education and Careers, ensures that pupils leave The Barlow as well-rounded citizens of the world.

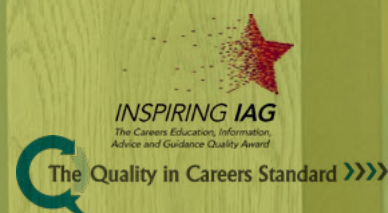
The awarding of the nationally recognised Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Quality Mark at Gold standard in September 2019, demonstrates our commitment to ensuring that young people understand other cultures, beliefs and opinions so that, as adults, pupils have all the necessary skills to be successful in the work place.

Prospective pupils can look forward to the many opportunities on offer to them at The Barlow, from Family Time activities, to a range of events and after school clubs, centred on sport, developing creativity and artistic talents, and their leadership skills, as they embark on their five-year journey of personal development.

“Teachers use their good subject knowledge to consistently engage pupils in challenging and interesting activities. *(Ofsted 2019)*”



“ Teachers at this school promote an exceptional learning culture and sustain an outstanding atmosphere to positively develop students, helping everyone to reach their full potential. (Gabriel, Head Boy) ”





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