Bishop Vaughan Catholic School

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

2025 - 2026

Report of the Governing Body concerning the discharge of its functions during the school year 2025 - 2026.

Bishop Vaughan School is a Catholic Voluntary Aided School in the Archdiocese Cardiff-Menevia. The school caters for the religious, educational and pastoral needs of Catholic children between the ages of 11-18 from Swansea and the surrounding area.

INTRODUCTION

This is the Annual Report of the Governing Body for 2025-2026 and gives you a useful insight into some of the key features of the school and its performance. Please take time to read it and absorb the details.

Governors are appointed to ensure that objectives are met and that planning for the future is both visionary and realistic. We are here to support and encourage our Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team and all school personnel so that children have access to a rich education and the opportunities they deserve.

As governors we become involved with a variety of issues including finance, pupil welfare, policies, building/grounds maintenance and staff appointments. However, without a doubt, we consider that our most important role is to ensure the highest of standards in relation to the welfare and education of the pupils.

We are justifiably very proud of the children in our school. In addition, this is an opportunity for me to thank all the parents who encourage and support their children so admirably. In a good school, such as ours, parents take a great interest in their child's learning and development.

I believe that at Bishop Vaughan Catholic School, governors, staff, parents and children work as a team, building on success, in a happy, creative, high-attaining environment where everyone feels valued. Parents and governors have key roles in helping the school to maintain high standards for all our children, both now and for future generations.

Welsh Government statutory guidance enables parents to request up to three meetings in a school year with the governing body. There is no longer a requirement for governing bodies to hold an annual parents' meeting but they may continue to call parents' meetings if they believe that an issue needs to be discussed. The purpose of a meeting requested by parents should be to discuss issues directly relating to the school, not individual pupil progress and achievement or grievances against a member of staff or the governing body. Of course, governors would hope that concerns are first raised with the school.

If 10% of the parents of registered pupils at the school or the parents of 30 pupils registered at the school, whichever is the lower number, request a meeting with governors, the school governing body is required to hold a meeting.

Should you wish to contact me to discuss any matter, please do so by first contacting our Headteacher. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible throughout the forthcoming year.

Cllr Sam Pritchard
Chair of the Governing Body, November 2026

THE GOVERNING BODY

The following people can be contacted through Bishop Vaughan School:

Chair: Cllr S Pritchard
Vice Chair: Ms S Dawkins
Clerk to the Governors: Mrs EJ Gwyther

The Governors of the School for the academic year 2025 - 2026 were:

Name	Position	Term of office
Mrs E Pole	Headteacher	Ex officio
Cllr S Pritchard	Chair & Local Authority Governor	21/05/2029
Fr R Davies	Vice Chair & Foundation Governor	Ended 02/03/2026
Ms S Dawkins	Vice Chair & Foundation Governor	07/07/2028
Mrs L Abraham	Foundation Governor	26/02/2030
Mrs P Morris	Foundation Governor	05/01/2030
Mr D Nutt	Foundation Governor	24/02/2030
Mrs T Parry	Foundation Governor	16/03/2028
Fr C Thadathil	Foundation Governor	09/01/2029
Mr J Twist	Foundation Governor	02/03/2028
Dr E Usoroh	Foundation Governor	07/05/2028
Canon P Watson	Foundation Governor	05/01/2029
Mr D Minister	LA Governor	23/03/2030
Mr M Lock	Parent Governor	07/04/2008
Mrs A Tanikie	Parent Governor	07/04/2028
Mrs A Lawrence	Staff Governor	Ended 06/10/2025
Mrs S Romano	Staff Governor	16/11/2029
Mr D Crudge	Teacher Governor	Ended 31/10/2025
Ms K Reed	Teacher Governor	28/01/2028
Mrs A Thomas	Teacher Governor	16/11/2029

S52 EDUCATION BUDGET STATEMENT Year: 2025-26 LEA Name: City and County of Swansea LEA Code: 670
UA Code: 532

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
School name	**Official reference number**	**School opening/ closing O/C**	**Date opening/ closing**	**Number of pupils**	**Budget share**		**Notional S.E.N. budget £k**	**Non-ISB Funds devolved to schools £k**
					Per school £k	**Per pupil £**		
Secondary schools								
Birchgrove	4075			728	5,095	6,998	1,108	
Bishop Gore School	4044			1,325	8,252	6,228	931	
Bishop Vaughan School	4600			1,244	6,949	5,586	414	
Bishopston Comprehensive	4069			1,131	6,741	5,961	702	
Cefn Hengoed	4031			918	5,878	6,403	762	
Dylan Thomas Community School	4076			706	5,161	7,310	1,185	
Gowerton Comprehensive School	4063			1,137	6,888	6,058	722	
Morriston Comprehensive	4033			1,070	6,953	6,498	882	
Olchfa School	4032			1,912	10,577	5,532	647	
Pentrehafod School	4043			1,131	7,153	6,325	1,056	
Penyrheol Comprehensive School	4062			865	5,835	6,745	786	
Pontarddulais Comprehensive School	4072			856	5,334	6,231	604	
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bryn Tawe	4078			877	5,517	6,291	444	
Ysgol Gyfun Gwyr	4074			1,136	6,735	5,929	481	
(11) Totals/average secondary schools				**15,036**	**93,070**	**6,190**	**10,726**	**0**

STATEMENT OF ACTUAL EXPENDITURE 2025/26 FINANCIAL YEAR

	Delegated Expenditure £	Non-Delegated Expenditure £	Total Net Expenditure £
Teachers Salaries	5,167,106	11,421	5,178,527
Salaries	1,810,722	74,749	1,885,471
Other Employee Costs	2,659	-181	2,478
Premises	178,525	0	178,525
Transport	6,205	548,855	555,060
Supplies & Services	1,020,733	0	1,020,733
Recharges	57,616	709,613	767,229
Gross Expenditure	***8,243,565***	***1,344,457***	***9,588,022***
Grant Income	-822,787	0	-822,787
Other Income	-223,911	0	-223,911
Gross Income	***-1,046,698***	***0***	***-1,046,698***
Net Expenditure	***7,196,867***	***1,344,457***	***8,541,324***

RESERVES:	**£**
FINAL FORMULA ALLOCATION:	6,932,201
TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE:	7,196,867
TRANSFER TO / (FROM) RESERVES:	**-264,666**
OPENING BALANCE ON RESERVES 01/04/25	-144,156
CLOSING BALANCE ON RESERVES: 31/03/26	**-408,822**

TERM DATES FOR ACADEMIC SCHOOL YEAR 2026 – 2027

		HALF TERM HOLIDAYS		
Term	**Term begins**	**Begins**	**Ends**	**Term ends**
Autumn 2026	Tuesday 1st September	Monday 26th October	Friday 30th October	Friday 18th December
Spring 2027	Monday 4th January	Monday 8th February	Friday 12th February	Friday 29th March
Summer 2027	Monday 5th April	Monday 31st May	Friday 4th June	Tuesday 20th July

SCHOOL DAY 2025 – 2026:

The school day for the school year 2025-2026 was organised into four one-hour periods and one fifty-minute period between Monday and Thursday. On Friday, the day consisted of a forty-minute tutorial period, followed by two fifty-minute periods, two fifty-five-minute lessons, and a final one-hour period.

	Monday - Thursday	**Friday**
Tutorial	8.50am – 9.10am	8.50am – 9.30am
Lesson 1	9.10am – 10.10am	9.30am – 10.20am
Lesson 2	10.10am – 11.10am	10.20am – 11.15am
Breaktime	11.10am – 11.30am	11.15am – 11.35am
Lesson 3	11.30am – 12.30pm	11.35am – 12.25pm
Lesson 4	12.25pm – 1.20pm	12.25pm – 1.20pm
Lunchtime	1.20pm – 2.00pm	1.20pm – 2.00pm
Lesson 5	2.00pm – 3.00pm	2.00pm – 3.00pm

ACTION TAKEN TO REVIEW SCHOOL POLICIES

There is a continuous process of review of school policies, and these can be viewed on our school website.

During the academic year 2025-2026 Governors adopted updates to the following policies:

- Admissions
- Anti-Bullying
- Appeals against Internal Assessment of Work for External Qualifications
- Attendance
- Child Protection
- Complaints
- Discipline for Learning
- Educational Visits
- Examination Contingency
- Examinations and Word Processing
- External Examinations
- Health and Wellbeing
- Home School Agreement
- Lettings
- Malpractice
- Non-Examination Assessment
- Physical Intervention
- Prayer & Liturgy
- Privacy Notice
- RSE (Relationships and Sex Education)
- School Session Times
- Staff Wellbeing
- Uniform

LINKS WITH THE COMMUNITY

The following items provide a few of the year's key events by way of an indication of school life at Bishop Vaughan. For a fuller account of these, please see the Bishop Vaughan website for the termly newsletters here and the Headteacher's monthly blogs here.

Festival of Peace

A well-established tradition for September is our Annual Festival of Peace. In September, we celebrated our fifth annual festival, and our theme was 'Pilgrims of Hope', thus linking our festival to the theme of the Church's Jubilee Year. There were some incredibly thoughtful and creative interpretations of the theme with exhibits from every academic department which were showcased in our Main Hall for a full week.

The central exhibit was the Science Department's towering lighthouse in the centre of the hall, with a rotating light as a real lighthouse would have, this symbolising that Christ is our light and that He is at the centre of our lives, making us safe and guiding us on our journey. Similarly, we are called to reflect His light and His message, acting as beacons to others, and the twinkling fairy lights around the remainder of the exhibition symbolised this, as did the beautiful light boxes created by the RE Department.

The Art Department's extensive contribution complemented those of PE, History, Maths, Sociology and in fact every single department, combining with stalls representing the cultures that make up our community and the Junior Legion of Mary's beautifully-decorated stall to remind us of our shared values and to explore the conditions for peace in our world.

During the week, we welcomed very many visitors, including the Deputy Lord Lieutenant (as the King's representative in the region), the High Sheriff of West Glamorgan, the Master of the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales, the Leader of the Council, our Assembly Member, the Cabinet Member for Education, the Director of Education, the Deputy Lord Mayor, both Directors of Education for the Archdiocese, local Councillors, the Project Team for our new school, our School Improvement Advisor, Canon Jason Jones, Canon Pelosi, the Vocations Director, several members of the clergy, Governors, Education Department Officers, Headteachers and pupils from cluster schools, Gideons UK, representatives of the Bishop Vaughan Society and numerous further guests.

Guests enjoyed tours of the exhibition guided by prefects followed by refreshments and a performance from the choir.

SCHOOL ROLL

The numbers of pupils on the school roll as at the census in January 2026 were:

Year 7	222
Year 8	196
Year 9	207
Year 10	215
Year 11	201
Year 12	130
Year 13	126

The total number was 1297; 645 boys and 652 girls

PUPIL DESTINATIONS 2026

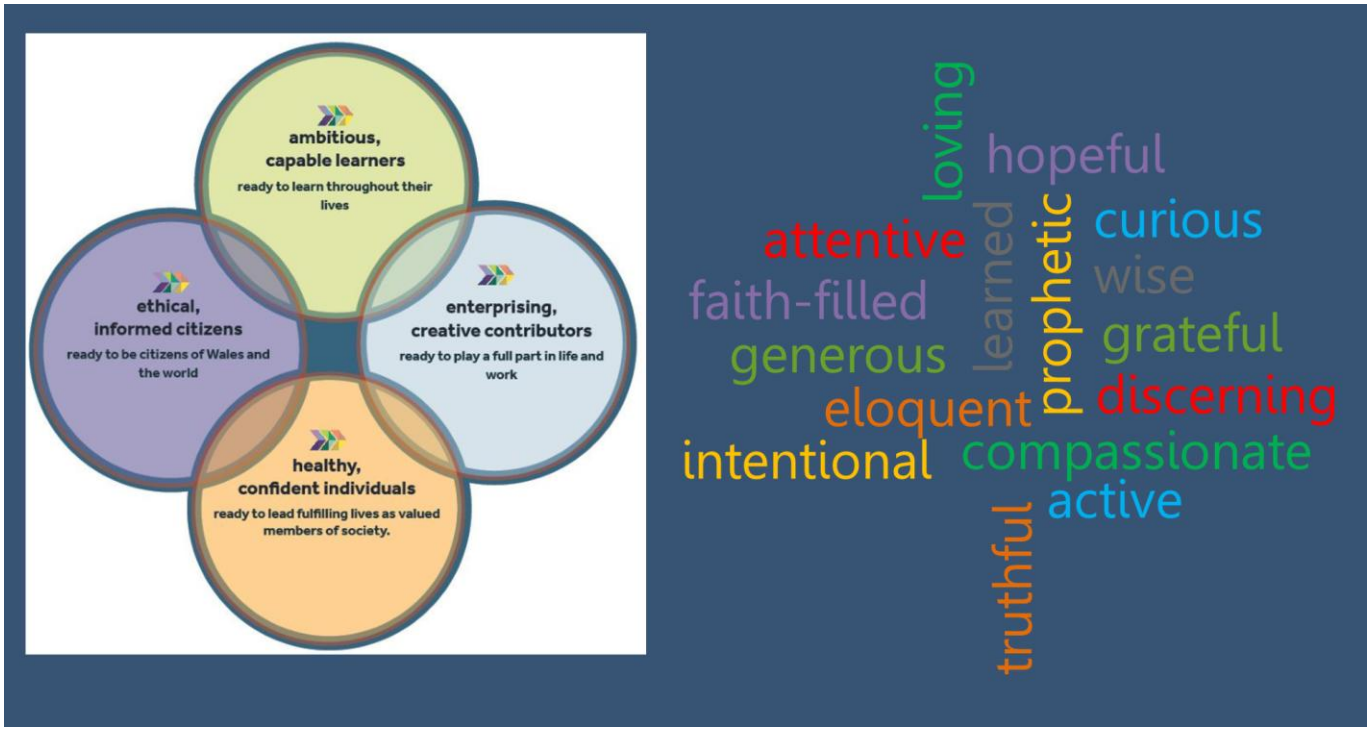
Aberystwyth University
Aston University, Birmingham
Bournemouth University
Bristol, UWE
Cardiff Metropolitan University
Cardiff University
Gower College Swansea
Keele University
Liverpool John Moores University
Loughborough University
Royal Holloway, University of London
Swansea University
Uni of Wales Trinity Saint David
University of Bath
University of Brighton
University of Chester
University of Derby
University of Leicester
University of Manchester
University of Nottingham
University of Plymouth
University of Reading
University of Sheffield
University of South Wales
University of Southampton
University of Strathclyde
University of Warwick
University of Worcester

PUPIL DEGREE SUBJECTS 2026

Accounting & Finance with Foundation Year
Accounting & Finance
Accounting & Finance with Professional Placement Year
Accounting & Finance with Placement Year
Adult Nursing
Animal Behaviour with Foundation Year
Art and Psychology
Biomedical Science
Business Law
Business Management
Chemical Engineering with Professional Placement
Civil Engineering with Foundation Year
Diagnostic Radiography
East Asian Studies
Economics
Electrical & Electronic Engineering with Industrial Studies
Electronic & Electrical Engineering with Foundation Year
Engineering with Foundation Year
Environmental Geography
Health, Wellbeing & Social Care Management
History
Illustration (Swansea College of Art)
Industrial Economics with Placement Year
Law
Law in Practice
Mechanical Engineering
Mechanical Engineering with Foundation Year
Medical Sciences
Midwifery with Foundation Year
Motorsport Engineering
Nutrition, Physical Activity & Health
Occupational Therapy
Pharmacy
Physiotherapy
Physiotherapy with Integrated Master's
Professional Policing
Psychology
Psychology and Criminology with Integrated Year in Industry
Psychology with Foundation Year
Psychology with Human Neuroscience
Robotics and Mechatronics Engineering with Integrated Foundation Year
Software Engineering including Foundation Year
Software Engineering with Year in Industry
Sport & Exercise Science
Sport & Exercise Science with Sport Foundation Year
Sport & Physical Education
Sport Management
Sport Performance Analysis

Curricular Developments

Work continues to ensure that our curriculum is continually refined to meet the needs of our pupils and to ensure it places Christ at the centre of all that we do within our Catholic setting. We have developed a knowledge-rich curriculum which is in line with our ethos; this seeks to develop and refine our pupils' application of their newly-acquired knowledge through the refinement of skills. The Catholic Pupil Profile Virtues and the four core purposes of the Curriculum for Wales are outlined in the graphic. In our school, we seek to nurture all of these characteristics in our pupils:



CURRICULUM 2025 – 2026

Both curricular and extra-curricular news are detailed extensively in our termly newsletters, linked here.

School Development Plan Update

The overarching areas of our work are readily referenced in our day-to-day work with practitioners and pupils. We have gathered those key work streams under the acronym 'PEACE'.

Peace, in all its forms, is entirely central to all that we do in Bishop Vaughan, whether this be promoting and celebrating our extremely diverse cultural heritages, exploring the conditions for peace as we do in our annual festival, living in accord with our principles in terms of the peaceful and ethical stewardship of creation or holding the words of the scriptures at the heart or our work, such as those in Colossians 3: 14-15 –

"*Above all, clothe yourselves with love,*
which binds everything together in perfect harmony.
And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts."

Our 'at-a-glance guide' to our existing SDP therefore is shown as follows:

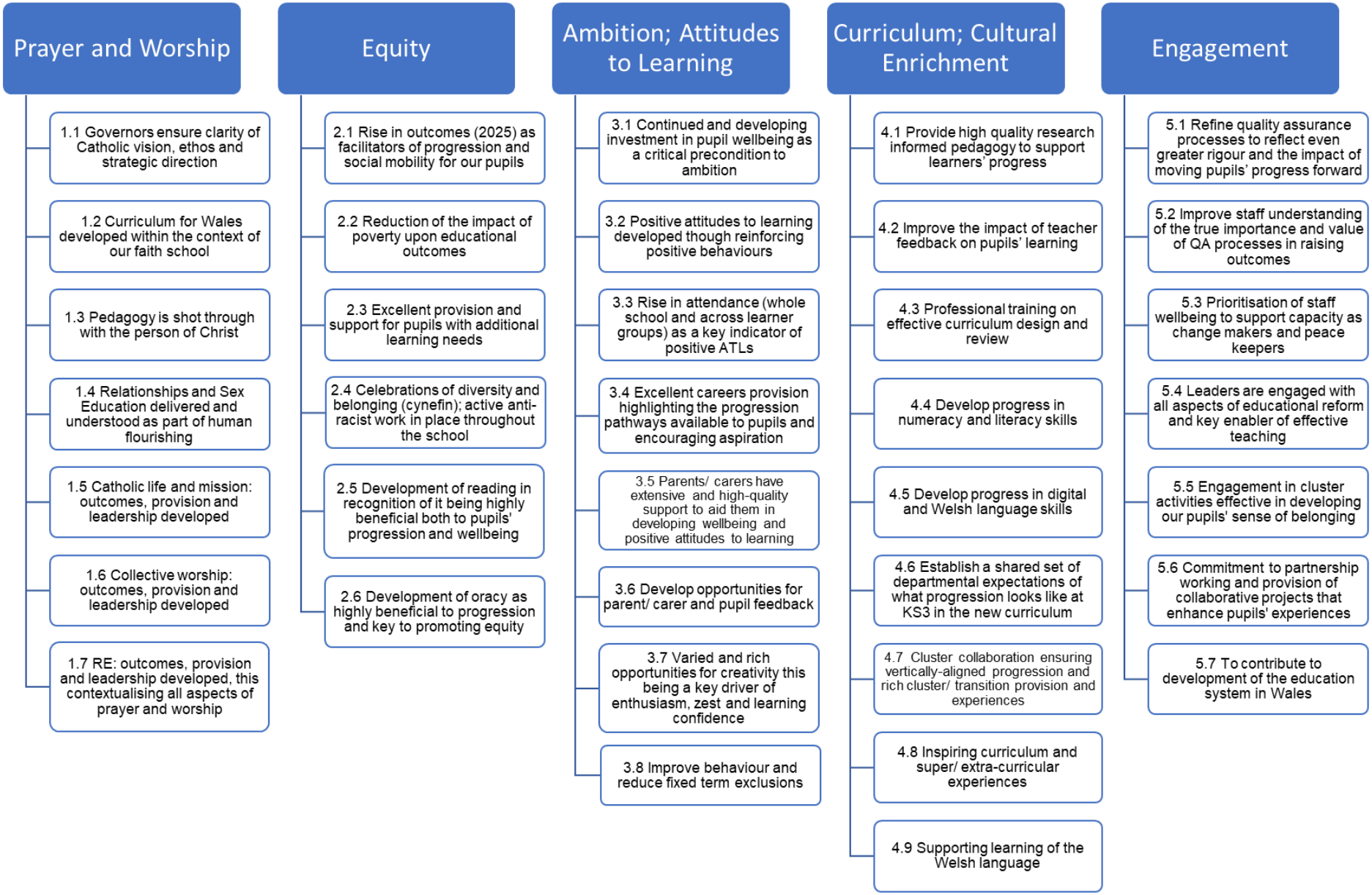
SDP Summary for Pupils

All schools have a School Development plan to guide their work. Ours is shaped around the acronym **PEACE**, and each of the five strands has lots of supporting action steps which ensures that our work as a school remains sharply focused on our priorities.

P	**Prayer and Worship:** **We work together to keep Christ at the centre of all that we do** This strand of the plan focuses in ensuring that there are varied opportunities for us to engage in prayer and faith life, for example by being in the Faith Council, the Junior Legion of Mary, the Alpha Group, the Charity Team, the School Council, etc. In addition, it focuses on ensuring that we all begin each day with acts of collective worship with our tutorial/ year group which are meaningful, relevant prayer experiences.
E	**Equity:** **Our school supports us to achieve our full potential regardless of any barriers to achievement that we may face.** Staff understand that some of us may need more support than others in certain areas. This strand of the school development plan therefore has lots of action steps focused on making sure there are many provisions focused on equity, these including diversity and anti-racist work, enhancing additional learning needs provision, developing the Learning Zone, supporting literacy, helping us to maintain our health and wellbeing and much more.
A	**Ambition and Attitudes to Learning:** **We are encouraged to be ambitious for the future and we are supported to develop the positive attitudes to learning that will help us fulfil our ambitions.** This part of the school's plan has action steps focusing on supporting our attendance, on supporting our parents and carers, on wellbeing provision, careers support and encouraging our creativity, as this enhances our enthusiasm, zest and learning confidence.
C	**Curriculum and Cultural Enrichment:** **Bishop Vaughan is committed to providing us with inspiring, interesting curriculum and extra-curricular experiences.** It places Christ at the centre of our curriculum and this part of the plan focuses on curriculum development, skills provision and developing provision outside the curriculum, for example through our Entitlement Charter commitments or weekly masterclasses or the dozens of lunchtime and after-school clubs that we can access each week.
E	**Engagement:** **Our school knows that our best chances of success lie in us engaging with all that the school can offer us.** This part of the plan then has action steps focused on ensuring that we have lots of opportunities to engage in shaping school life, including as leaders and School Councillors. It also ensures that our teachers and support staff are actively engaged in professional learning which will allow them to enhance the provision offered to us across all areas of school life.

The action steps stemming from these overarching headings are shown below, with our progress towards these actions being RAYG-rated (red, amber, yellow, green) throughout the year. The successive reviews take place over the course of the academic year. The school aims to meet all of the actions outlined over the course of the academic year. Naturally, some areas will require a greater proportion of the academic year in order to be fully accomplished.

Bishop Vaughan Catholic School Development Plan Tracking Flowchart



Year 11 Summary Data Summer 2026

Group	Number	As % of Cohort	L2%	L1%	English Lang/Lit	Mathematics/ Numeracy	Science
Cohort	199	100.00%	70.85%	91.96%	68.84%	57.79%	60.30%
Boys	85	42.71%	67.06%	92.94%	60.00%	61.18%	60.00%
Girls	114	57.29%	73.68%	91.23%	75.44%	55.26%	60.53%
ALN	21	10.55%	9.52%	71.43%	9.52%	4.76%	9.52%
EAL (Stages A - C)	19	9.55%	47.37%	89.47%	42.11%	36.84%	42.11%
EAL (Stages A - E)	88	44.22%	82.95%	97.73%	80.68%	69.32%	76.14%
FSM	38	19.10%	47.37%	84.21%	47.37%	34.21%	36.84%
Non FSM	161	80.90%	76.40%	93.79%	73.91%	63.35%	65.84%

Accumulative

	+	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	X
2026	4.01%	15.29%	54.21%	74.59%	85.37%	92.23%	95.79%	98.31%	99.92%	100.00%
2025	7.88%	22.21%	51.92%	73.44%	83.40%	90.17%	94.39%	97.96%	100.00%	100.00%
2024	10.52%	26.54%	53.31%	75.29%	84.60%	91.58%	96.33%	98.34%	99.91%	100.00%
2023	10.28%	22.81%	51.51%	74.60%	85.43%	91.59%	96.48%	98.57%	99.78%	100.00%
2022	10.88%	24.25%	55.71%	74.91%	84.91%	89.76%	94.02%	97.31%	99.85%	100.00%
2021	14.57%	27.07%	60.93%	80.46%	89.49%	94.99%	97.97%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%