SERVE · PRAY · ACHIEVE · RESPECT

THE BARLOW
RC HIGH SCHOOL

Rise up, take courage, and do it.

www.thebarlowrchigh.co.uk



Headteacher's welcome

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 prior attainment. 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





"Leaders at all levels, including the governing body, have an accurate knowledge about what the school is doing well and the areas for improvement."

(Ofsted 2024)

"The school has successfully fostered a culture of high expectations for pupils' learning and behaviour and is ambitious for all pupils."

(Ofsted 2024)

"There is a strong sense of family and community that is evident in the quality of relationships across the school. Pupils have a real sense of belonging and are proud members of The Barlow Family."

(Catholic Inspection 2025)

Our school

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 2024 when The Barlow was judged as continuing to be a 'good' school in all areas.

Our vision is shared by staff, pupils and governors and is outlined below.

Working together, we are guided by our **Christian values** to:

Instil high expectations & aspirations

Promote excellence

Create opportunities

Learn from one another

Broaden horizons

Through this, we **empower** everyone to achieve success.

"My children have very different needs and have both thrived at The Barlow. From dedicated and talented teachers and support staff, to phenomenal pastoral care, sporting opportunities, drop down days and exciting trips, that have not only supported learning, but taught my children valuable skills for life. The school is a wonderful community, where children shine for being themselves and families are supported and involved in their child's education and school experience. My children are seen for who they are and their talents and strengths are given the opportunity to shine and grow."

(Parent of a Year 8 & Year 11 pupil)



Core values:
Serve. Pray. Achieve. Respect.

"There is a deeply embedded culture of an inclusive welcome, and leaders are proactive in ensuring that all groups represented in the school are recognised and celebrated."

(Catholic Schools Inspection 2025)

"This is a welcoming school where pupils' differences are celebrated. Pupils and staff are accepting of everyone. Parents and carers said that the school is a family where there are lots of opportunities for their children to grow."

(Ofsted 2024)



"Pupils learn effectively from a broad, rich curriculum."
(Ofsted 2024)

"Pupils demonstrate a strong understanding and sense of belonging to this inclusive Catholic community, enriched by its diversity and the high-quality relationships between staff and pupils."

(Catholic Inspection 2025)

"Pupils know the expectations placed on them to work hard and to do their best in lessons. They respond positively to these expectations. Pupils feel happy and safe."

(Ofsted 2024)

Our pupils are our greatest asset

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 school motto is 'Rise up, take courage, and do it', which comes from the Book of Ezra in the Old Testament. It encourages pupils to embrace challenges head-on, show resilience, and pursue their goals to make a positive impact on society.

At The Barlow, we empower our pupils to navigate life beyond secondary school as happy, responsible and independent young adults, fully prepared to make a constructive contribution to society.



Teaching, learning & the curriculum

At The Barlow, we set high expectations to ensure that every pupil excels across all aspects of school. 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 make a positive contribution to British society and to experience future success.

Our curriculum implementation centres on a carefully planned and structured sequence of learning, which is the foundation upon which excellent progress and development are 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 adapted 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 Personal Development programme which encompasses CEIAG (Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance), PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic education) and SMSC (Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural) themes. We pride ourselves at The Barlow on 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 quality of teaching in religious education, as evidenced in lesson visits, work scrutiny and pupil voice, is excellent."

(Catholic Inspection 2025)

"The Barlow has given me everything I could want from a school: great friends, dedicated staff and an engaging learning experience. The support and opportunities I have received have prepared me well for the future."

(Anthony, Head Boy)

"The school has implemented a curriculum that makes clear what pupils need to learn and remember. Teachers have strong subject knowledge across all subjects and use their expertise to encourage pupils to make connections in their learning."

(Ofsted 2024)

"The Barlow High School has truly been a second home to me, playing a significant role in shaping my character and building my confidence. The dedicated and passionate staff consistently go the extra mile, and the unwavering support throughout the school creates a strong sense of belonging. Its inclusive, diverse and friendly community ensures that everyone feels valued, providing countless opportunities to grow, learn and flourish."

(Isla, Head Girl)

Pastoral care

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 2024 commenting that 'relationships between pupils and staff are courteous and respectful.'

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 Inclusion Department, 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 and sensory intervention. Mindfulness sessions take place weekly during Family Time as an integral part of our Personal Development and PSHCE 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 Chaplaincy Team, Anti-bullying Ambassadors and Diversity Council work cohesively to continually promote our whole-school values of Serve, Pray, Achieve and Respect and we are extremely proud that this has been recognised on a national level via securing The BIG (Bullying Intervention Group) Award as well as the prestigious Diana Award 2019.



"Pupils' behaviour in lessons and around school is highly positive. Routines to support good behaviour are clear and applied consistently well by staff."
(Ofsted 2024)

"Pupils' behaviour and attitudes in lessons and around school are excellent. They have a strong sense of self-worth and demonstrate respect and care for others as well as themselves."
(Catholic Inspection 2025)



"Pupils receive comprehensive careers information and guidance and are well prepared for their next steps in education and their lives beyond school."

(Ofsted 2024)

"Pupils' wider development is a high priority for the school. There are many opportunities for pupils to develop leadership skills as prefects and diversity leaders. Pupils visit universities, museums and theatres and benefit from an extensive and varied extracurricular programme, regularly taking part in activities, such as The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, drama, music and sports clubs."

(Ofsted 2024)

"The Religious Education department has introduced a wide variety of enrichment activities such as residentials to Savio House, visits to a Jewish synagogue, Holocaust workshops and many other well-planned activities that develop the spiritual, moral and cultural needs of the pupils."

(Catholic Inspection 2025)

Personal development

At The Barlow, personal development is at the heart of everything we do. We are committed to nurturing confident, compassionate and resilient young people who are ready to make a positive contribution to society.

Through a rich programme of Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic (PSHCE) education, careers guidance, leadership opportunities, enrichment activities, chaplaincy programmes and community engagement, pupils develop the knowledge, skills and values needed to thrive in modern Britain. Our personal development offer is further enhanced through a wide-ranging programme of educational visits, international trips and retreats, providing pupils with memorable opportunities to broaden their horizons, deepen their understanding of the world and create lifelong memories.

These include visits to Paris, Iceland and Italy, as well as the powerful Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial visit in Poland, which promotes reflection, tolerance and respect for others. Pupils also benefit from spiritual retreats at Savio House during Key Stage 3 and Soli during Key Stage 4, supporting their faith development, wellbeing and personal growth.

Rooted in our Catholic ethos, we encourage every pupil to recognise their unique God-given talents, embrace diversity, serve others and strive to become the very best version of themselves, both academically and personally. Our aim is to ensure that every young person leaves us as a well-rounded, responsible and ambitious individual, fully prepared for the opportunities and challenges of adult life.





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Achieve your full potential.

Parrs Wood Road, East Didsbury, Manchester M20 6BX
0161 445 8053 | admin@thebarlowrchigh.co.uk