



## St Paul's Catholic School

*"Let your light shine before others" Mtt5*

### Statement of Curriculum Intent

As part of the St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi Academy Trust, St Paul's seeks to have a truly Catholic curriculum that aims to develop every aspect of a young person's life for the better.

Our school Mission Statement states that we have a mission and vision to fulfil our potential as disciples who grow in holiness, knowledge and dignity and with Jesus Christ as our role model "I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full" (John 10.10), our curriculum is broad and balanced and characterised by high expectations of all. It aims to allow our students to achieve their full potential and prepare them to make a valuable contribution to society and be successful in the fullest sense in the world of work and life beyond school. We want students to be proud of hard work and success and we promote praise and reward extensively.

Our curriculum aims to empower every student to develop as an independent, free thinking individual with a conscience rooted in Christian values, who can cope with challenges by developing resilience and living Christ's message. Our curriculum intends that students should adopt high aspirations and that most should aim to progress onto university or higher level apprenticeships. As such we will offer a wide range of GCSE and Level 2 subjects so that our students can achieve their goals and ambitions. The curriculum we offer therefore is broad and balanced and one that builds on skills as well as knowledge in a spiral approach across Years 7-11. We have a focus on reading and vocabulary in order that student's life chances are improved. Sitting alongside this we ensure that students are prepared for the world of work with a dedicated CIAG programme, which includes all students in Years 10-13 having a meeting with a L6 careers advisor as well as a full RSE and PSHE curriculum. We recognise that there is more to education than GCSE outcomes and we also offer all students an entitlement to a rich and varied extra curriculum in their time with us. We encourage all students, with the support of their families, to take all the opportunities, which our curriculum offers, both within formal lessons and beyond the classroom, so that when they leave our school they can draw on their experiences. These include opportunities the Arts, Sport and Music, as well as trips. There are many opportunities for students to get involved in leadership in school like the Hospitality Team, Student Council, Student Mentors, Well-being Ambassadors and the Senior Student Leadership Team.

The curriculum at St Paul's comprises all those activities and experiences which contribute to the intellectual, spiritual, physical, social and emotional development of members of our community. This includes the extended or out-of-hours curriculum which contributes to the ethos of the school, promoting the values expressed in our Mission Statement and School Aims. Therefore, our whole curriculum includes opportunities for students to:

- deepen their understanding of Gospel values, of the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church and of their own spiritual potential.
- become enthusiastic learners, with the ability to question, argue and reason,
- developing the skills, motivation and thirst for knowledge never accepting the status quo
- develop self-confidence, and self-discipline, grow in self-esteem, and develop sensitivity to and respect for others.
- communicate in a variety of ways, using a wide range of media.

- develop a respect for their community and for the environment, and an appreciation of the interdependence of all aspects of the world.
- appreciate each other's' gifts and talents through formal and informal praise and awards
- acquire knowledge and skills in preparation for adult life, and the world of work.
- promote a healthy lifestyle, encouraging participation in physical activity and nurturing talent.

### **Curriculum Design and Content**

St Paul's curriculum must achieve breadth by bringing all students into contact with a wide range of areas of learning and experiences. It cannot be assumed that this breadth in the curriculum is guaranteed simply by the range of subjects offered under the National Curriculum. Balance must be achieved in the curriculum by ensuring that each of these areas, for each student, is allowed sufficient scope for development, in terms of time and resources with the available financial and structural resources. Equally, there should be a balance in the variety of teaching styles employed in each classroom, with avoidance of the over use of any one particular style. A balance should be achieved also across the range of types of work required of the students in each classroom, with avoidance of overdue emphasis on any one particular kind of work. Each area of learning should draw upon the student's experience of the world, and enhance their understanding of it within the context of the teachings of the Catholic Church. What is taught and learned should be perceived by students to meet their present needs, be relevant to the prospective needs of adult life, serve to enhance their enjoyment of learning or further their interest in, and understanding of the world. St Paul's curriculum must be differentiated, in that it must possess the capacity to cater for the needs, abilities and interests of each individual student. It is important, then, that departments identify and seek to meet the varying needs and ability levels of the students in each teaching group

Tailored programmes for each year group meet the requirements of the RSE, PSHE and careers curriculums. There are nominated members of staff with specific responsibilities for each to these areas to ensure the quality of delivery and content. Each curriculum area identifies aspects of their schemes that contribute to such coverage, in particular during the Curriculum Enrichment Days. Form time allows for a focus on reading and vocabulary that is also supported through the curriculum.

### **The Special Status of Religious Education**

In using Christ as "our family role model", it follows that the path to full achievement of potential is, for each person, only to be found through sound knowledge of His teachings, followed ever more closely through a deepening spiritual awareness of His presence in our lives. Since as Catholic's we believe that a person's potential can only be fully realised through a lived commitment to Christ, based upon an informed understanding of His way, it follows that Religious Education is central to St Paul's curriculum. It is also essential to the rounded development of each student and will therefore form a core part of our curriculum. St Paul's school also recognises that the spiritual and moral development of each student is not the sole responsibility of the Religious Education Department, but rather, in word and in deed, by teaching and by example, and at all times that of every member of the school community.

### **Partnership with Parents**

In meeting its responsibilities to parents, St Paul's seeks to foster an open door policy. The school endeavours to inform parents as fully as possible on the progress of their child, and on the performance of the school as a whole. Parents are welcome into school at any time to discuss their child's education and are warmly invited to attend the many functions and celebrations which take place during the school year.

The school will endeavour to ensure that;

- i) All students equally are positively engaged in the whole range of curricular provision.

- ii) All curriculum areas contribute towards a broad and balanced education.
- iii) All curriculum areas contribute towards the moral and spiritual development of each individual.
- v) Access to the curriculum is extended to students having special educational needs through the provision of appropriate support.
- v) Wherever possible, parents are engaged in the process of supporting children through the education programme.
- vi) Due consideration is given to recognising the importance of community involvement in enhancing the quality of teaching, learning, attainment and progress.
- vii) Processes of assessment and recording enable students' strengths to be extended and limitations reduced.
- viii) Manageable processes of recording ensure continuity and progression of students' learning
- ix) The school curriculum as a whole promotes high expectations of students' performance.
- x) The delivery of the curriculum encourages the development of self-esteem.

St Paul's curriculum will be reviewed regularly in order to reflect current educational understanding, the changing nature of the school's intake and the latest governmental and national requirements and the available resources.

**Mission Statement**

*St Paul's School is a Catholic family, a living, breathing reflection of the love of our God and neighbour. We celebrate our diversity, seeking from each other mutual respect and high expectations. Our mission and vision is to strive to fulfil our potential as disciples who grow in holiness, knowledge and dignity.*

**School moto**

*"Let your light shine before others" Mtt5*

**School Hymn**

*Christ be our light*

**School prayer**

this  
 is what  
 the Lord  
 asks of you,  
 to act  
 Justly,  
 to love  
 tenderly,  
 and to walk  
 humbly  
 with your  
 God.  
 micah: 6