



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 value opportunities for praise and reward.

Our curriculum is ambitious in its' breadth and depth, and we ensure this is the case across the 7-11 offer, building on the gains that students have made in primary school. It has been carefully mapped to the National Curriculum and we believe it is rich, progressive and well sequenced. We offer a full range of art and design subjects and performing arts across Key Stage 3 which translates into broader choices at Key stage 4- new courses in BTEC Fashion and GCSE photography are now offered with high retention rates. Humanities uptake has increased from 43 % to 57% of the cohort and languages improving to 36%. (PP from 14-25%). After-school clubs are offered in all of the arts subjects and these are well attended, with the school productions being a significant part of the school calendar. Our hope is that with the new MFL curriculum delivery that aims for confidence in learning, this will also increase in numbers at GCSE. As a Catholic school we are committed to all of our students studying GCSE RE whilst avoiding curriculum narrowing. Consequently, students are still able to choose three subjects to study at GCSE which includes a broad offer including all of the arts and Technology. Year 9 is an ambitious gateway and puts students in the best possible situation for post-16 study and beyond. Subjects are able to extend learning and content that exceeds the specification and National Curriculum and is complemented by our Personal Development programme.

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 Personal Development 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.

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.

Curriculum Design and Content

St Paul's curriculum achieves 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 and so we ensure that balance is 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 is to be a balance in the variety of teaching styles employed in each classroom, with avoidance of the over use of any one particular style and a 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 draws upon the student's experience of the world, and enhances their understanding of it within the context of the teachings of the Catholic Church. What is taught and learned is perceived by students to meet their present needs, is relevant to the prospective needs of adult life, serves to enhance their enjoyment of learning or further their interest in, an understanding of the world. St Paul's curriculum is adapted to meet the needs, abilities and interests of each individual student. Our priority is therefore to 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 Personal development Curriculum (RSE, PSHE and careers). There are nominated members of staff with specific responsibilities for each of 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. British values are covered across the curriculum and are well mapped out.

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 Catholics 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.

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

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 motto

“Let your light shine before others” Mtt5

School Hymn

Christ be our light