

Curriculum Policy

Introduction

The curriculum at St Thomas a Becket School encompasses all the learning experiences, which take place within it. The School aims to develop its pupils as autonomous learners and to allow them to fulfil their potential within a caring Catholic framework. The curriculum will be dynamic and evolutionary and pay due regard to national legislation and local educational policy but will be principally guided by the School's Mission Statement and Aims.

Mission Statement

To develop the potential of every individual by providing the best education through experience of a Catholic Christian Community within which all members may grow in faith.

To support our Mission the curriculum will be coherent, have breadth and balance and allow for differentiation, progression and continuity. It will be pro-active and show due regard to all aspects of teaching and learning experiences which facilitate the development of the whole child spiritually, morally and academically.

Aims

- To provide equality of opportunity and ensure access to the curriculum regardless of ability, gender, race, religion or disability.
- To ensure that all pupils will experience success and that achievement will be recognised, recorded and celebrated.
- To provide a balance between the acquisition of knowledge and the development of the skills, Christian attitudes and Gospel values which will enable our pupils to become responsible members of the community.
- To develop pupils as independent thinkers able to take responsibility for their own learning and journey in faith.
- To involve parents, parishes and local organisations in the learning experiences of our pupils and in the development of our wider school community.
- To develop Catholic Education within a 5 – 19 framework by building close links with partner primaries and post 16 providers.
- To ensure that meaningful, learning experiences, which fall outside the specific taught curriculum, are also recognised and utilised to the full.
- To develop appropriate teaching and learning styles in order to ensure effective delivery of the curriculum.
- To recognise the central role of the form teacher within the learning process and to ensure that the pastoral and curriculum aspects are combined effectively to support access to the curriculum for all pupils.

Entitlement

Pupils are entitled to receive a curriculum which prepares them for adult life by reflecting the needs of society; which is broad and balanced and which provides learning experiences in all of the Key Areas. R.E. is at the heart of our curriculum as it supports the spiritual and moral development of all our pupils.

Teaching and Learning

All members of staff are encouraged to ensure that appropriate teaching styles and learning processes are in place to allow pupils to achieve their full potential.

Departmental policy documents provide more detailed subject specific considerations in relation to teaching and learning.

***The following curricular areas have specific policy documents and are therefore not mentioned in detail within this policy:**

- Spiritual and Moral Development**
- Special Educational Needs**
- Literacy**
- Numeracy**
- Assessment, Recording and Reporting**
- Homework**
- Careers Education**
- Work Experience**
- ICT**
- Library**
- Sex Education**
- Drug Education**
- Options**

Curriculum Deployment

Subject delivery and the organisation of teaching groups within individual areas is the responsibility of Heads of Departments. In Upper School the curriculum is divided in two to maximise choices at Key Stage 4. Pupils are placed in either half on a random basis in consultation with the Options Co-ordinator and the appropriate Head of Year.

Extra Curricular Activities

These are many and varied and form an important part of our curriculum offering. Activities include: Retreats, Sport, Theatre/Museum/Art Gallery visits, trips abroad and in this country, Activity Days and outside speakers/visitors.

The Timetable

The timetable is organised to facilitate effective delivery of the Curriculum. Regular discussions take place between the Head and the Timetable Co-ordinator to ensure current and future developments are taken into account in preparations for September Timetable.

Curriculum Review

The curriculum at St Thomas à Becket School is pr-active and as such is constantly under review in response to National and Local directives and the SIP. Regular discussion re-curriculum issues takes place at Heads of Department Meetings and at weekly meetings with the Head Teacher and Assistant Head Teacher and at Leadership Team meetings.

Current Curriculum development is outlined in the SIP are:

Teaching

Learning

14 – 19 Curriculum

Specialist Schools bid

Alternative Curriculum (Work Related Learning and ASDAN Youth Award)

Responsibilities

- General – Head Teacher, Assistant Head Teacher (Curriculum/Timetable)
- Subjects – Heads of Departments or Teachers i/c subject.
- Defined areas (e.g. Spiritual and Moral, SEN, PSHE, Citizenship etc) – staff with specific responsibility.
- Classroom management and subject teaching – subject teachers and HODs.
- Pupil Support – Form Teachers, Heads of Year, Pastoral Team Leader.