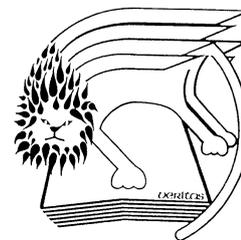


Date Approved:	September 2019
Date of Next Review:	September 2021
Designated SLT:	MLO
Governors' Committee:	Curriculum



St Mark's Catholic
School

CURRICULUM POLICY

School Vision and Mission Statement

The community of St. Mark's believes that every individual is created by God and is precious to God. Each person is called to serve God and their neighbour and to fulfil their potential.

St. Mark's is a Catholic School which has at its heart a love of God, the education of its students and a mission to serve our neighbours and community. We seek to foster a spirit of truth, reconciliation, justice and peace. We are committed to developing the spiritual, intellectual, moral, cultural, social and physical potential of all our members within a safe and supportive environment.

Curriculum Intent

Our vision as a community is that every individual is created by God and is precious to God. Each person is called to serve God and their neighbour and to fulfil their potential. This is reflected in our Mission Statement:

"St Mark's is a Catholic School which has at its heart a love of God, the education of its students and a mission to serve our neighbours and community. We seek to foster a spirit of truth, reconciliation, justice and peace. We are committed to developing the spiritual, intellectual, moral, cultural, social and physical potential of all our members within a safe and supportive environment."

To this end we intend to develop the potential of every student at St. Mark's by providing a curriculum which:

- Is broad, balanced and coherent within and across subjects;
- Is enriching and engaging for all students so that they achieve regardless of their background or prior attainment;
- Is age-appropriate;
- Develops skills of numeracy, literacy, oracy and ICT;
- Prepares students for life, further education and employment;

- Equips our students to be active citizens within the local and international community in order to overcome social disadvantage.

Our curriculum intent is also set firmly within the context of a Catholic vision for education:

“The curriculum, in all its aspects, must reflect the fact that the person of Christ, and the message which the Church has received from Him, is the foundation of the whole educational enterprise in a Catholic school. Although it may be convenient to speak of the ‘religious’ curriculum and the ‘secular’ curriculum in the Catholic school, as though these were separate and distinct, in reality the curriculum as a whole, and every part of it, is religious, since there is nothing which does not ultimately relate to God. For the school to be truly Catholic, this vision must be shared by all connected with its work.”

Evaluating the Distinctive Nature of the Catholic School,
Bishops Conference of England and Wales, 1999.

Curriculum Implementation

The formal curriculum is organised into a 30-period week with lessons being 50 minutes in length. This entitlement is achieved by offering a core curriculum in which aesthetic, creative, geographical, historical, environmental, linguistic, literary, scientific, mathematical, technological, spiritual, moral and religious areas of learning are offered to the students.

At Key Stage 4 some element of choice is also offered to allow for individual development needs and personal interests. A small number of pupils are invited to follow alternative curriculum pathways, but the vast majority follow the EBacc as we hope that that this provides the pupils with routes to success. Careers advice and guidance supports the options process at GCSE and A Level. In the Sixth Form we offer A Level courses and the majority of students choose 3 subjects.

To ensure coherence and development, the curriculum is regularly reviewed by the SLT, Subject Leaders and in Department meetings. Subject Leaders have the professional autonomy to shape their curriculum in their subject areas. Each Subject Leader has formulated a clear Curriculum Intent and Overview which is shared with all members of the Department. Subject Leaders are responsible for ensuring that teachers have expert knowledge of the subjects that they teach and continuing professional development is key to our success in enabling students to make appropriate progress across the curriculum.

Access for All

We expect that through the curriculum, all students will be helped to realise their potential and develop a sense of their own worth and to have respect for each other. In order to achieve this, our Curriculum Statement should be read in conjunction with our Equal Opportunities policy and SEND policy. We acknowledge the individual needs and learning styles of our students so attention is also given to the resources necessary for the wider adoption of a range of teaching and learning styles across all

subject areas. Our Assessment Policy and Rewards System recognise the importance of effort as well as attainment, and all students have dedicated PSHCE with their Form Tutor.

The Wider Curriculum

Since the curriculum of St. Mark's is seen as being the total educational experience offered to our students, it therefore includes the wider curriculum which contributes greatly to the Christian ethos in which learning takes place. Liturgies, Masses and Retreats are an essential and regular part of the Catholic life of the School. Lunchtime and after school activities such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, STEM club, sporting activities and curriculum enrichment studies serve to extend our students fully. There are also a wide range of leadership opportunities and public speaking competitions. We aim to enrich our students' cultural capital both within, and outside of the classroom, and to pass on the best that has been thought and said in the past.

Curriculum Impact

At St. Mark's, we teach a broad, rich and academic curriculum and this leads to excellent student progress and achievement in public examinations. Continual monitoring of individual performance through our reporting system ensures that students are continually encouraged to maintain and increase their efforts. We appreciate that curriculum development is an ongoing process, and we continue to monitor, evaluate and refine our curriculum in order to develop highly educated young Catholic men and women who are fully committed to their faith and ready to play their full part in society.

Parental and community involvement with our curriculum is essential if it is to fulfil the vision and mission of the school. Parents' evenings, newsletters, diaries and information booklets keep parents informed as to what we are trying to achieve with our students.

Our Governing Body is consulted on a regular basis as to the content of the curriculum and approves the Curriculum Statement on an annual basis.

September 2019