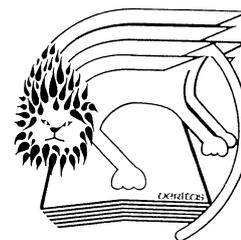


Date written:	September 2019
Date Reviewed:	September 2021
Date of Next Review:	September 2023
Designated SLT:	MLO
Governors' Committee:	Curriculum



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 curriculum intent is central to our vision and ethos.

To this end we intend to develop the potential of every student, particularly disadvantaged and students with SEND, at St. Mark's by providing a curriculum which:

- Is ambitious, broad, balanced and coherent within and across subjects
- Is coherently planned and sequenced
- Focuses on the national curriculum and places the Ebacc at its core
- Is enriching and engaging for all students so that they achieve regardless of their background or prior attainment
- Develops skills of numeracy, literacy, oracy, ICT
- Prepares students for future learning and employment, including the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life
- 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. St Mark’s implements a 3-year key stage 3 and this develops the knowledge and skills necessary for progression to key stage 4 and 5.

At Key Stage 4 choice is also offered to allow for individual development needs and personal interests. The EBacc is at the heart of the St Mark’s curriculum as we believe that this provides students with the best route to success. We value the delivery of Modern Foreign Languages and the vast majority of students undertake them until the end of year 11. Careers advice and guidance supports the options process at GCSE and A Level. In the Sixth Form we offer a wide range of A Level courses and the majority of students choose 3 subjects. Some A Level students will undertake a fourth A’ Level or an EPQ.

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 (including teachers delivering lessons outside their main area of expertise). Continuing professional development is key to our success in enabling students to make progress across the curriculum.

Teachers and leaders use assessment well: to check understanding; to inform teaching and to close any knowledge and skills gaps. The whole school policy has been designed to reduce unnecessary burdens on staff, whilst still supporting students and impacting progress.

Remote education is embedded across the school through the use of Google Classroom. This is to support the wider implementation of the school’s curriculum and for setting and reviewing homework.

Reading is prioritised to allow students to access the full curriculum offer. The school is promoting fluency, confidence and the enjoyment of reading. Students' reading attainment is assessed and gaps are addressed.

Access for all

Through the curriculum, all students will realise their potential and develop a sense of their own worth. It will also enable them to respect people in the school and the wider community. In order to achieve this, the Curriculum policy should be read in conjunction with the school's Equality and Diversity policy, Disability, Equality and Accessibility plan, and the SEND policy.

The Wider Curriculum

The wider curriculum contributes greatly to students' learning and experiences. 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, sporting activities, academic and pastoral intervention 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.

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 people who are ready to play their full part in society.

Students at St Marks are ready for the next stage of education, employment or training; they gain skills and qualifications that allow them to go on to destinations that meet their interests and aspirations.

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 policy.