



CARDINAL NEWMAN
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

November 2022

Date of Next Review:
November 2023

Curriculum Policy

CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM POLICY

INTENT

As a Catholic School we believe in the development and celebration of the whole person as an image of God and the whole person should be celebrated. As such our curriculum is wide and offers large elements of choice. Our school curriculum is designed so that all students' gifts and talents can be developed and celebrated. We offer over and above the requirements of the National Curriculum at KS3 and allow students to choose part of their course of study in languages and the Arts and technologies in years 8 and 9. At KS4 we offer free choice in students options and fully comply with the requirement for students to study in the 4 curriculum areas of technology, Language, Humanities and the Arts if they so wish. At KS5 our offer is wide and flexible with both academic and vocational courses on offer where students can mix and match. We also offer unique fast track courses.

At subject level, our goal is to ensure our learners are able to fully develop their individual God-given talents. Our curriculum is based on the most transformative or 'powerful' thought and practice in each subject discipline through which we aim to challenge educational and social inequity by empowering our children to understand, interpret, and think about the world in new ways beyond their immediate experience. Curriculum and academic rigour are key to our goal of maximising the future life chances of our learners. We believe children of all abilities are entitled to access powerful knowledge and to have high expectations of what they can achieve. What this means in practice is that, every lesson, students will **know more, be able to do more and retain more.**

IMPLEMENTATION

- The design of our curriculum is led by subject experts. Our curriculum is delivered through responsive teaching.
- Subject-specific literacy matters; the language conventions of subject disciplines are explicitly taught.
- The curriculum spirals in a logical and increasingly challenging sequence to support the development of deep and flexible knowledge and understanding over time.
- The curriculum aims for mastery in focussing on identifying and closing gaps and early intervention.
- The curriculum builds on our students' learning experience at KS2 and prepares them for higher level academic study when they leave our Sixth Form.
- The curriculum is relevant to and inclusive of students across the range of backgrounds in our school community.
- The curriculum aims to introduce students to new experiences and powerful knowledge beyond the classroom to open doors and to prepare them fully for later life.
- The curriculum fosters independence and develops effective communicators.

We view everything the children learn in school as being part of the school curriculum, including CEIAG, extra-curricular activities and student leadership opportunities. In this sense, we drive character education not only through our spiritual mission but also through the high expectations and challenge provided by the academic curriculum, co-curriculum and extra-curriculum in order to develop resilience, confidence and a life-long love of learning. Our extra-curricular offer at all Key stages is second to none and students are strongly encouraged to participate in many of the clubs, activities and visits that are on offer. At KS4 and KS5 these are formalised into an academy structure where students can specialise in extra-curricular activities to a very high standard. This model brings the School and College very high levels of success in many sports and outstanding performances in the Arts. We offer academy provision for academic subjects at KS5 that provides the backbone for the gifted and talented work in other Key Stages.

IMPACT

The impact of our curriculum is measured through regular formative and summative assessment to enable responsive teaching to support student progress towards ambitious KS4 and KS5 outcomes. Not only are these terminal outcomes a measure of our curriculum impact but so too are our student destinations; by the age of 18, we want every student to have access to university, high quality apprenticeships or the workplace. Civic participation, behaviour and attendance and engagement in extra-curricular activities also help us to measure the impact of our wider curriculum. We evaluate and review our curriculum regularly using feedback from students, teachers, parents and governors in a continuous improvement cycle.