

# Policy

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# Curriculum

Published: December 2011  
For Review: 2012–13





# Our Purpose

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The work of the school is the spiritual, moral, intellectual, aesthetic and physical development of each pupil. It seeks to put Christ at the centre of every activity, worship, learning and service to others.

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**This policy was adopted by the Governing Body**

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Lavery', written over a horizontal line.

Mr R Lavery, Chair of Governing Body

Date:

7/12/2011

## **(i) The Curriculum**

### **General**

The curriculum is offered fully to boys and girls. Through its curriculum the school aims to:

- teach the beliefs, doctrines and practices of the Roman Catholic Church
- encourage respect for moral values and tolerance of other religions, races and cultures
- give the satisfaction of achievement to all pupils and develop a sense of vocation
- encourage high standards of work, smart appearance and awareness of a healthy life style
- develop an effective and imaginative use of language
- provide mathematical, scientific and technical knowledge and skills
- teach how present-day society evolved, how the nation achieves its standard of living and the ways in which nations depend on each other
- teach about human achievement and encourage aesthetic and environmental awareness
- encourage open-mindedness and rational discussion

### **Principles**

Our Curriculum Plan will:

- show due regard for statutory requirements
- reflect our specialist status
- be tailored to the individual needs of students
- enable young people to become successful learners
- allow for personalisation and choice within a structured system
- provide information, advice and guidance (IAG)
- Provide opportunities to learn beyond the classroom.

### **Curriculum Organisation**

Key stage 3 comprises Years 7 and 8. The pupils begin the Key Stage 4 courses at the start of Year 9 (since September 2005).

#### **Key Stage 3**

During Y7 the subjects timetabled are RE, English, Mathematics, Science, Design & Technology, Drama, French, History, Geography, ICT, Music, PE, Tutorial (PSHE) and Art. Lessons are taught to mixed-ability classes with the exception of Maths. Children with Learning Support requirements are taught in these classes as far as possible with support.

In Y8 the children continue to be taught in mixed-ability classes in many subjects. The year is split into separate half-year groups and are treated as two bands of equal ability, for those subjects where pupils will be put into ability sets. Where timetabling and staffing allow, mathematics is taught in ability based sets across the whole year group.

#### **Key Stage 4**

The curriculum from the start of Year 9 is determined by the requirements of the National Curriculum with the majority of students following a core curriculum of Religious Education (includes PSHE), English, Mathematics, Science (Double Award), Physical Education, and ICT.

In a number of subjects, where grouping allows, students are taught in ability based sets.

The students also choose some of the following:

- Art and Design
- Design & Technology
- Drama
- Geography
- Health & Social Care
- History
- ICT
- Media
- French/German
- Music
- Performing Arts
- Physical Education
- Sport
- Travel & Tourism
- Youth Award

Courses started in Year 9 are continued through to the end of Year 11. The main routes of assessment are GCSE or BTEC but some pupils may be assessed by other agencies or by a test leading to a certificate issued by the school.

## **Year 12**

The year 12 courses lead to GCE Advanced Subsidiary level, GCE Advanced level qualifications or BTEC National Diplomas. A wide range of subjects is available. Some students follow a wider general studies programme leading to certification at Advanced Subsidiary or Advanced level. Students can also re-take a limited range of GCSE subjects. Students follow a general RE curriculum with no examination.

### **Year 13**

Year 13 courses lead to GCE Advanced Level certification or BTEC Diplomas. These courses follow naturally from Year 12. Students are offered a wide range of religion based activities.

## **Setting Arrangements – 2011**

### **Year 7**

Pupils are taught in mixed ability groups – in most cases this is in tutor groups. However:

- In mathematics, D & T and PE the year is divided into two cohorts called North (Forms C,D,F & G) and South (Forms M,P & W).  
Forms in each half of the Year group study these subjects at the same time - the facility does exist in D & T to mix the forms but they are taught as form groups.
- In PE the pupils are separated into gender based groups.
- In mathematics each half of the Year is divided into 4 ability based hierarchical sets.

### **Year 8**

As in Year 7 apart from:

- In mathematics, the year group is divided into 8 hierarchical ability based groups. However, sets 6 and 7 are parallel.
- In modern languages, each half of the year group is divided into 4 sets. Pupils in sets 1 & 2 are taught both French and German. Those in sets 3 & 4 study French. Sets 1 & 2 are parallel and sets 3 & 4 are parallel.

### **Year 9**

As in Year 8 apart from:

- Modern languages form part of the option system and the pupils can choose to study either French or German or both and where possible are taught in ability based groups.
- Science is taught in half year groups (North and South) with each cohort divided into 2 broad ability based bands each divided into two sets with sets 1 & 2 parallel and 3 & 4 parallel.
- In RE each half year is taught as 4 mixed ability groups – at present these are as tutor groups but the facility does exist for them to be reorganised and this is likely to happen later in the academic year.
- English is taught in half year groups (North and South) with each cohort divided into 2 broad ability based bands each divided into two sets with sets 1 & 2 parallel and 3 & 4 parallel.
- ICT core is taught in half year groups (North and South) with each cohort divided into 4 ability based sets. However sets 2 and 3 are of equal ability.
- The option subjects are, in the main, taught as mixed ability groups.

### **Year 10**

As in Year 9 apart from:

- RE has each half year group divided into 4 mixed ability groups.

### **Year 11**

As in Year 10

### **Years 12 and 13**

- Subjects tend to be taught as mixed ability

Note: Adjustments to the setting are made to take account of individual student's needs.

## **Work Experience**

During their time at school all students are expected to participate in the Work Experience Programme. For most students this is two weeks in Year 10.

## **Homework**

Homework is an integral part of the curriculum. It prepares students for lessons, reinforces what has been taught and develops self organisational skills. A homework timetable is in place for Key Stage 3 and guidelines are available for Key Stages 4 and 5.

## **Informed Curriculum**

It is accepted that, for students to maximise potential, participation in activities beyond the classroom is vital. Subjects partake in a large number of extra-curricular activities to enhance student learning.

## **Off-site Learning**

A small number of Year 10 and 11 students study off-site or attend extended work placements where this is appropriate to their needs.