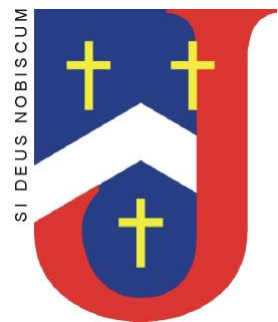


St. Joseph's RC High School
Ysgol Uwchradd Gatholig Joseff Sant

Curriculum Policy

4. Curriculum Policy



This policy was updated November 2022 by Jane Morgan

This policy was presented and adopted by the Governing Body November 2022

This staff were made aware of this policy November 2022

This policy will be reviewed November 2024

Curriculum Policy

This document should be read alongside our St Joseph's RC High School Curriculum Summary.

PRINCIPLES

St. Joseph's RC High School is committed to the provision of a Christian education for all its students in accordance with the principles and teachings of the Catholic faith.

Through our mission statement, summarised by 'Serving God through Learning Together', we endeavour to keep faith as the foundation of our curriculum so that Gospel values Catholic Virtues permeate and affect all aspects of our curriculum and school life.

'The parish community is a place for religious and spiritual education. School is a place for cultural education. The two dimensions must be integrated, because the same values inspire them: they are the values of Christian families who, in a society dominated by relativism and threatened by existential emptiness, intend to offer their children an education based on the unchangeable values of the Gospel.'

(Pope John Paul II, *Address to Teachers and Students of the Catholic Villa Flaminia Institute*, Rome, 23 February 1997)

As a Catholic school, we

- recognise the privilege of promoting the whole person.
- place social justice at the heart of our mission.
- promote the idea that 'life in all its fullness means being exacting, rigorous, ambitious and having an appetite for all excellence demands.' (Rt Revd Stephen Conway).
- provides a religious education which studies 'the relationship between faith and life' (Mgr Marcus Stock).

We embrace Welsh Government's vision of a new curriculum for Wales which supports us in our mission to nurture the whole child to prepare them to serve their communities in an uncertain world.

- *'The children and young people of today are entering a fast-changing world that is increasingly competitive, globally connected and technologically advanced. Schools are having to prepare our young people for jobs that have not yet been created and challenges that we are yet to encounter. This will require a renewed commitment to improving both the skills and knowledge of our young people, as we raise standards in our transformational curriculum. Education has never been more important. Education reform is our national mission.'*
(*Education in Wales: Our national mission*)
- We are committed to continuing to work alongside our pupils, our parents/carers, our staff, and our governors to ensure that all are actively involved in the construction of a curriculum in which all can flourish. We will continue to provide opportunities for all in our Catholic community to work alongside the staff at St Joseph's to help to design our curriculum and to plan for assessment.

Our vision for a *Virtue* driven curriculum

At St Joseph's RC High School, we are committed to ensuring all our pupils experience a curriculum which is built upon our Catholic Virtues which are the golden thread running through the Four Purposes. All members of our school community are actively involved in the creation of a curriculum which fosters self-belief and a willingness to serve in a spirit of faith, hope and love. We want our

young people to strive for excellence, to inspire others, and to flourish in an ever-changing world, while keeping at the heart of all their endeavours the unchangeable values of the Gospel.

Driven by Catholic Virtues and the Four Purposes

Developing these Virtues in our pupils is central to our mission as a Catholic school. We are learning together, using a common language, so that we can nurture these Virtues in our pupils and in all of us as a school community.

Our pupils are growing to be:

- compassionate and loving
- faith-filled and hopeful
- eloquent and truthful
- learned and wise
- curious and active
- intentional and prophetic
- grateful and generous
- attentive and discerning

Our Catholic Virtues are the golden thread running through the Four Purposes which drive our curriculum so that our pupils become:

- ambitious, capable learners.
- enterprising, creative contributors.
- ethical, informed citizens.
- healthy and confident individuals.

Ultimately, all these strands combine to give each individual the best life chances and allow them to make choices about their contribution to our community, because this is the basis for a happy and successful life.

This is most effectively achieved through a blend of traditional expectations and creative learning approaches continually updated in line with the latest educational research.

We believe that the essence of education is that teachers know the young people they teach and what they need to know and create a climate of professional learning and collaboration to allow teachers' creativity and innovation to flourish so that each pupil is able to flourish as an individual.

The overall result is a dynamic classroom characterised by effective relationships, expectation of success and a high degree of challenge for all.

The school recognises that the organisation of teaching spaces and learning environments contribute to the ways students learn. This is true whether the teaching space is a physical space such as a classroom or an outside space or whether the teaching space is in a 'virtual' classroom through remote/online learning platforms.

Religious Education

As a Christian school, religious education is the core of our school curriculum and provides opportunities for pupils to reflect on their relationship with God and to learn Catechism and the lives of the saints, reflecting on world religions, and how their lives can be enriched by keeping Gospel values at the centre of all they undertake.

CURRICULUM ORGANISATION

Students are grouped in ways we feel are most appropriate to their age and ability. Where students are organised in sets there is appropriate flexibility for student progression with regards to setting and examination tiers at all stages.

Effective provision for students with additional language or learning needs is made whenever possible by targeted classroom learning support and withdrawal sessions.

The school operates on fifty, one-hour, periods per fortnight.

YEARS 7, 8, 9

Effective transition arrangements between primary and secondary school allow for an appropriate level of knowledge of the curriculum in readiness for Year 7.

All pupils in the first three years study religious education, English, mathematics, science, computer science, art, music, drama, physical education, Welsh, personal and social education, Mini-Bac, either French or Spanish, and technology (including CAD/CAM, food, RM, electronics, systems control, textiles, product design).

In Years 7, 8 and 9, the majority of students are taught in mixed ability form classes. The exceptions are:

- in mathematics, pupils are set by ability after the first half term of Year 7.
- in English, pupils are set by ability in years 8 and 9.
- in religious education and in science, pupils are set by ability in year 9.

YEARS 10, 11: KEY STAGE 4

All pupils study the curriculum that meets The Learning and Skills Measure (2009). Within the compulsory core curriculum all pupils study in sets: English Language, English Literature, mathematics, numeracy, science (triple science / double science) and religious education.

All pupils study: Games, Welsh and Skills Challenge Certificate.

In addition, pupils choose option subjects from a range of GCSE and vocational courses. Option subjects are taught in mixed ability groups.

YEARS 12, 13: KEY STAGE 5

All students have the choice of studying a local curriculum, that significantly exceeds the 14-19 Learning Pathways. The curriculum is offered in collaboration, as part of the Newport West Post-16 Partnership.

The partnership includes: Bassaleg School, The John Frost School and Newport High School.

The Welsh Baccalaureate qualification is undertaken by all students.

All students follow the year 12 and 13 general religious education course. In 2022, a Spiritual Reflection course (Agored) has been introduced for Year 12 and will continue into Year 13 in 2023-24.

CURRICULUM 2022

The curriculum we offer is in line with national developments and research and is reviewed at least annually with curriculum plans shared with and agreed by the Governing Body. From September 2022, the school have adopted the new curriculum and pupils in Year 7 will follow a new curriculum.

This curriculum is being designed by teachers working alongside pupils, parents/carers, governors and partner primary schools in order to ensure we have a curriculum which serves the needs of all.

The aspects of the new curriculum which are mandatory are:

- Statements of What Matters
- Cross-curricular skills
- Religion and values education
- Relationships and sexuality education
- Welsh
- English
- Principles of Progression

There are six areas of learning and experience (AOLEs):

Expressive Arts:

- Art
- Music
- Drama
- Digital Media

Health and Well-being:

- Physical Education (PE)
- Personal Social Health and Education (PSHE)
- Food Technology

Humanities:

- history
- geography

Language, Literacy and Communication:

- English
- Cymraeg
- international languages (French, Spanish)

Mathematics and Numeracy:

- Mathematics

Science and Technology:

- science
- computer science
- design and technology (D&T)

The cross-curriculum skills which stretch across the curriculum are:

- literacy
- numeracy
- digital competence

These skills will be integrated across the curriculum, along with integral skills and cross-cutting themes.

The **integral skills** are

- creativity and innovation
- critical thinking and problem solving
- personal effectiveness
- planning and organising

The **cross-cutting themes** are

- relationships and sexuality education (mandatory)
- human rights
- diversity
- careers and work-related experiences
- local, national and international contexts

Assessment and Progression in the new curriculum

At the heart of the new curriculum are the five Principles of Progression and we use these principles to ensure that learning is effectively sequenced, building on prior learning and in line with descriptions of learning as outlined in the new curriculum documentation.

These principles are:

1. Increasing effectiveness as a learner
2. Increasing breadth and depth of knowledge
3. Deepening understanding of ideas and disciplines within each AO/LE
4. Refinement and growing sophistication in use and application of skills
5. Making connections and transferring learning into new contexts

These principles support staff to ensure that the curriculum we design is inclusive: challenging all pupils appropriately and enabling all to flourish.

In the new curriculum, assessment is now continuous and is an integral and indistinguishable part of teaching and learning which means that there is no further need for formal summative assessment in the form of numerical levels.

Continuous formative assessment lies at the centre of the new curriculum and ensures that teachers will use a range of methods to assess how well pupils have understood their learning which will inform next steps in teaching and learning and also allow staff, pupils and parents/carers to monitor how well pupils are progressing in their learning.

Evaluating the curriculum: designing and maintaining a curriculum which serves our pupils

As we continue to design our new curriculum, we will ensure that careful evaluation of the curriculum and its delivery will be undertaken. We need to embrace the iterative aspect of our work and accept that continuous evaluation and reflection is required to ensure that the curriculum continues to fulfil the needs of all our pupils.

At St Joseph's, we accept that if we are going to design and maintain a curriculum which fulfils the needs of all our pupils, we have to see, as Claire Hill states, 'curriculum development is an ongoing process; it's not going to be finished – ever.' While this may seem a daunting task, we will never stop in our mission, 'Serving God through Learning Together', providing an education for our pupils which is driven by our Catholic Virtues and instils in the young people we serve a sincere faith and trust in God's love and His eternal beneficence.

'My child, don't forget what I teach you. Always remember what I tell you to do. My teaching will give you a long and prosperous life. Never let go of loyalty and faithfulness. Tie them around your neck; write them on your heart. If you do this, both God and people will be pleased with you. Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. Remember the Lord in everything you do, and he will show you the right way.'

(Proverbs 3:1-6)

Related documents:

[Wales' National Mission](#)

[Curriculum for Wales](#)

[Archdiocese of Cardiff](#)

[Catholic Education Service](#)