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THE CARDINAL VAUGHAN MEMORIAL SCHOOL

Amare et Servire

THE CARDINAL VAUGHAN MEMORIAL SCHOOL TRUST

CURRICULUM POLICY

This policy and procedure was approved and adopted by The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School on 1 February 2021 and is reviewed annually.

THE CARDINAL VAUGHAN MEMORIAL SCHOOL

CURRICULUM POLICY

In the words of Cardinal Manning, we seek *'the formation of the whole person: intellect, heart, will, character and soul.'* We consider that our School's curriculum is the single most important vehicle through which we seek to achieve these aims and objectives. To this end, we design, implement and assess a curriculum which enables us to cater for pupils of all abilities and to enable them to achieve the highest academic standards.

In addition, naturally, the curriculum plays a crucial role in the Catholic formation of all our young people, and in their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Regular School Assemblies are held in the Lower and Upper Schools and their content is unambiguously religious. The daily Form Teacher period, it should also be noted, gives Form Teachers the opportunity to reinforce the expectations of Christian conduct outlined in the pupils' diary, as well as a weekly meditation provided by the Executive Headteacher. Mass is celebrated twice weekly for all year groups in rotation; it includes a homily which undoubtedly contributes to Christian formation. Finally, all Departments are expected to implement policies in harmony with the School's Mission Statement and to indicate how this is done.

All teachers, whatever their status, subject or responsibilities, are expected to see the curriculum as a means of supporting the School's pastoral structure. They understand that their style of teaching, their responsibility as role-models, the respect they show pupils and their expectations of them must inevitably contribute to pupils' growing awareness of the place for self-discipline, fairness and respect for others in their daily lives.

The School's PSHE/RSE Co-ordinator with the Head of School has a general responsibility for supporting other members of staff in the implementation of the local governors' Relationship and Sex Education policy.

Since September 1995, the School has chosen to award up to 10% of its First Form places to pupils who demonstrate outstanding musical aptitude.

The School offers extensive co-curricular provision to enable all pupils to develop their interests, talents and skills.

Of course, in a school such as the Vaughan, whose pupils reflect such a wide social and cultural diversity, the curriculum serves as a powerfully unifying factor. We also wish to ensure that our curriculum, overt as well as hidden, enables our pupils to appreciate the value of other religious faiths in our multi-cultural society.

KEY STAGE 3

The Schools offers an accelerated Key Stage 3 programme of study, but one which maintains breadth and balance. Upon entry to the School in the First Form, pupils are placed in groups consistent with their ability, based on the scaled scores achieved in KS2 English and Mathematics; this method is used to ensure objectivity. The position of pupils in these groups is regularly reviewed.

Over and above the National Curriculum requirements, the curriculum provides for the following:

- Latin, throughout the Key Stage, for two groups, in order to maintain the School's tradition of Classics, that is, to develop intellectual rigour and to give them an appreciation of the role that Latin has played in the development of our civilisation, language and literature.
- GCSE courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics as individual qualifications are followed by one group from the Fourth Form onwards.
- Additional Physical Education, in accordance with our traditions, making full use of the opportunities provided by our playing fields.

KEY STAGE 4

Over and above the National Curriculum requirements, the curriculum provides for three Option Pools, as described in the GCSE Options Booklet. These have been designed to ensure breadth and balance. In both Key Stages provision is made for helping pupils with SEND, the least able as well as the gifted; courses with a greater focus on personalised learning are provided at Key Stage 4.

THE SIXTH FORM

The Sixth Form curriculum offers a wide choice of Advanced Level subjects, covering the Sciences, Mathematics, the Humanities and the Arts, details of which will be found in the Sixth Form Booklet.

A regular programme of Religious Education is compulsory for all pupils. This is in keeping with the School's Mission Statement: *'Our principal role as a Catholic school is to participate in the apostolic mission of the Church by providing a Catholic framework in which children may grow in their understanding and practice of the faith and in which they are prepared to undertake their responsibilities as Catholics in society.'*

Physical Education is not compulsory at this stage, though provision for voluntary participation is made.

For the Lower Sixth, supervised Private Study is compulsory each morning. Members of the Upper Sixth, however, as a general rule, do not have to attend supervised Private Study. All members of the Sixth Form are encouraged to take part in some form of community service.

The Head of School is responsible for ensuring that this policy is implemented.