



CURRICULUM POLICY

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Document History		
Version	Date	Notes on Revisions
1.0	1 st Sept 2018	Condensed original guidance
1.1	1 st Sept 2019	Rewrite of Vocational Offering
1.2	1 st Sept 2020	Computer Science option replaced Graphic Design
1.3	1 st Sept 2021	Design Technology replaced Product Design
1.4	1 st Sept 2022	Rewrite of KS3 offer
1.5	1 st Sept 2024	Rewrite of KS4 offer
1.6	1 st September 2026	Reviewed – no amendments

A Community of Learners, Believers, Friends

We believe that every child is uniquely created and loved by God and called by Him to fulfil a special purpose. It is our privilege to help each child to identify, nurture and use his/her talents to build a better world. To this end we will work in partnership with parents, parishes our community of schools and with the wider community.

Curriculum Policy

United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child (UNCRC) Articles 2 (without discrimination). The Convention applies to every child whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, abilities, whatever they think or say, no matter what type of family they come from.

We believe that every child is uniquely created and loved by God and called by Him to fulfil a special purpose. It is our privilege to help each child to identify, nurture and use his/her talents to build a better world. To this end we will work in partnership with parents, parishes the community of schools and with the wider community. At Mount St Joseph we offer an ambitious curriculum driven by the national curriculum that enables students to feel confident, valued and successful, respecting themselves and others as learners whilst also promoting spiritual awareness, moral and cultural values.

- 1.1 The school promotes innovative and challenging approaches to teaching and learning. We appreciate that every child is unique and therefore has very different needs. At the heart of what we do is the feeling that we must engage and motivate all students both inside and outside the classroom. Approaches to teaching and learning are promoted through senior teachers, Subject Leaders and a Teaching and Learning group.
- 1.2 Effective learning takes place in well-established learning environments. These learning environments must be based on mutual respect. It is the responsibility of staff and students to ensure that all members of the school community are engaged in learning. This is achieved through clearly defined expectations regarding students' behaviour and attitudes as well as the provision of a well-planned and inclusive curriculum that engages and motivates all students.
- 1.3 The school recognises that to best show we value students we must find appropriate ways to celebrate success. Subject areas identify students who make outstanding contributions or outstanding progress and recognise this through a mixture of whole school praise strategies during celebration assemblies. In addition, subject areas recognise achievement through letters home, classroom displays, Celebrating "star" students on the main corridors within the school and

awarding students with PB points. This enables students to recognise, share and celebrate their own and others achievements, strengths, talents and expertise.

1.4 All curricular areas promote spiritual awareness through the planning and delivery of lessons. The curriculum encourages spiritual growth by:

- Asking questions about existence and purpose
- Creating a sense of wonder
- Creating a sense of fulfilment
- Creating time for reflection
- Making clear links to the Gospel values

1.5 Our curriculum is planned to be broad, balanced, flexible, relevant and inclusive, matching the needs of the individual irrespective of gender, race or background.

1.6 Throughout the school we work hard to deliver our curriculum vision. This states that:

At Mount St Joseph School, we are passionate about creating a rounded, ambitious curriculum with teaching and learning experiences that enable every student to excel and make rapid progress towards their personal goals, always achieving their potential.

As a school community we believe this is effectively done when:

- We develop a curiosity for knowledge
- We build a range of independent learning skills and develop enquiring minds
- Staff inset on teaching and learning is driven through Professional Development Communities where best practice is shared and celebrated.
- We strive to achieve the highest academic results and to realise the potential of every student
- We foster a sense of personal identity and self-worth
- We encourage students and select tasks to enable them to become self-reflective and independent in their learning
- We develop students in enabling them to become learning resources for their peers within their classrooms
- We construct our curriculum to allow maximum choice and flexibility, so that programmes in Key Stage 3 and 4 have high personalisation

- We create a climate that stimulates excitement about learning
- We listen, to students, colleagues and expert practitioners to inform our practice
- We work hard to contextualise learning
- We share the learning objectives with students making them aware of the success criteria enabling them to see the purpose in what they are learning
- We share the learning journey each student will go on so that students are aware of what they will be learning and why
- We recognise that the most effective learning is collaborative and social
- We work towards building community – locally, nationally and internationally in order to develop active citizens of the world
- We foster a lifelong love of learning, and equip learners to cope with the rapidly changing needs of the technological world in which we live.
- We develop students who are spiritually aware of the world they live in.

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; where learning is planned but space is left for unexpected and emerging ideas.

We believe that the essence of education is that teachers know the young people they teach and what they need to know.

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

Curriculum overview

At Mount St Joseph students enjoy dynamic lessons in a rich and varied curriculum designed to engage and motivate students. We believe that every child is uniquely talented and we seek to provide a curriculum which meets the need of all our children.

Our curriculum intent is to offer all students a broad, balanced and rich experience which will equip them to succeed in a rapidly changing world. The curriculum is enriched with a variety of extra-curricular activities to encourage students to make constructive use of their leisure time. We create the conditions in which all students can grow and develop resilience and creativity.

KEY STAGE 3 CURRICULUM

Transition from primary to secondary is a high priority for the school and students arriving new to the school in year 7 are initially taught in their form groups, this enables them to develop strong relationships with their peers and a strong sense of belonging.

After the first term and throughout the remainder of year 7 and onwards, students are taught in ability groups, set in three bands, enabling lessons to be tailored to maximise each individual's potential. Whilst the curriculum focuses on literacy skills and mathematics it is also varied so students can experience a wide range of subjects.

Subjects within the Curriculum

In accordance with National Curriculum guidelines all students follow a common curriculum at Key Stage 3 comprising:

Art	Citizenship	Computing
Drama	English	Geography
History	Mathematics	French/Spanish
Music	Physical Education	Religious Education
Science	Technology	

In year 9 Students are able to opt for certain subjects to study at KS4 after following a core programme to support and guide them with these choices. This allows students to make informed decisions around choosing their subject specialisms for KS4.

Students continue to study the compulsory subjects of the national curriculum across the three years of KS3 ensuring they experience a broad and balanced curriculum that prepares them for not only KS4 but also further education and beyond.

KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM

In the spring term of Year 9 students opt for their final Key Stage 4 subjects and it is these they will sit exams in at the end of Year 11. Students continue with these subjects for the remainder of their time at Mount St Joseph. The curriculum at KS4 is designed to enable students to achieve their best studying subjects they find stimulating and relevant whilst providing equity for all.

Students study English, Maths, Science, RE and a humanity subject and those who wish not to study a Modern Foreign Language can instead choose two options. Students on this pathway may sit a mixture of GCSE and equivalent qualifications such as BTECs and Technical Awards.

The school has developed programmes with external providers for students requiring support such as TLG, Edstart, PLC and numerous work-based programmes. A student's participation in alternative provision still ensures they receive their entitlement to statutory education at a partnership project. All programmes provide access to a mixture of GCSE and equivalent Vocational qualifications such as BTECs or Technical Awards.

Subjects within the Curriculum

All students at Key Stage 4 study the core subjects:

English	Mathematics	Science
Geography/History	Religious Education	Physical Education

Optional Subjects

After consultation with parents and staff students choose further subjects from:

Art	Business/ Enterprise	Computer Science
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Drama	Health & Social Care	Food Technology & Nutrition
French/Spanish	Music	Photography
Physical Education	Design Technology	Computing

Our curriculum is constantly evolving to meet the needs of our students and to provide them with the knowledge and skills they need for their future working lives. We regularly take their feedback to see what we could do better and what subjects they may wish to study in the future. To complement the curriculum, we have a wide range of activities that go on across the year from enterprise events and careers workshops, visits by outside speakers and work experiences within the local area. We offer a variety of retreats and ethos events, sports days and celebrations throughout the year.

Support is provided for all students through our tracking of student performance. The curriculum is flexible to allow students to have short term support and intervention to address any specific learning issue and achieve the best progress possible. The personalisation of the curriculum at Mount St Joseph has something for everyone and encourages all our students to do their very best and reach their true potential.