

Mount St. Joseph

"A community of Learners, Believers and Friends"

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As we begin a new academic year at Mount St Joseph, we would like to share our key expectations for learning and how we can work together to help every student achieve their best.

At MSJ, we are proud to be a community of Learners, Believers and Friends. Through our Excellence at MSJ model, we have high expectations for every student, while providing the support and challenge they need to succeed.

Ready to Learn

Every lesson matters. We expect students to:

- Arrive on time to school and to every lesson.
- Be ready to learn, with the correct uniform and equipment.
- Listen carefully, follow instructions and contribute positively.
- Take pride in their work and always aim to do their best.
- Complete homework and independent learning on time.
- Show kindness and respect to staff and other students.

Good attendance and punctuality make a real difference. Missing even small parts of lessons can lead to gaps in learning, so we appreciate parents' support in ensuring students arrive every day on time and ready to learn.

Excellence at MSJ

Our Excellence at MSJ model ensures students experience consistent expectations in every classroom.

We want students to develop excellent learning habits: working hard, thinking carefully, responding to feedback, remembering what they have learned and becoming increasingly independent.

Our message to students is simple: be ready, work hard and make every lesson count.



Knowledge Expert (Homework)

Our Knowledge Expert Strategy helps students to know more and remember more.

Students are provided with Knowledge Expert Sheets containing the essential knowledge they need to learn for each subject. These are used alongside Knowledge Expert Books, retrieval practice and Carousel quizzing to help students regularly revisit and strengthen their learning.

Students will receive Knowledge Expert homework every week from each of their subjects. They will be expected to use their Knowledge Expert Sheets to learn and revise the key knowledge before completing the homework set.

Students will then be expected to show their completed Knowledge Expert work to their subject teacher, so that teachers can check completion, understanding and the quality of their independent learning.

Regular completion of this work is an important part of our Excellence at MSJ expectations. Parents can support by encouraging their child to complete their Knowledge Expert homework each week and to use their Knowledge Expert Sheets regularly, rather than leaving revision until assessments or examinations.

Our Curriculum

Students at Mount St Joseph follow a broad and ambitious curriculum.

At Key Stage 3, this includes subjects such as English, Maths, Science, Religious Education, History, Geography, Languages, Computing, Art, Drama, Music, PE and Technology.

As students move into Key Stage 4, they continue with a strong core curriculum alongside their chosen option subjects, ensuring they are well prepared for their next steps.

More information on the curriculum can be found on the school website: [Curriculum Introduction - Mount St Joseph Catholic School](#)

Teaching Groups

Some subjects are taught in ability groups so that teachers can provide the right level of challenge, pace and support.

You may see the following letters on your child's timetable:

M - Students work at an appropriately challenging pace with opportunities to extend and deepen their learning.

S - Students follow the full curriculum with an appropriate balance of challenge, consolidation and support.

J - Students follow an ambitious curriculum with additional explanation, scaffolding and consolidation where needed to help them build confidence and secure key knowledge.

These groups reflect students' current learning needs and starting points - they do not place a limit on what a student can achieve. We have high expectations for every child and regularly use assessment and progress information to ensure students receive the right level of challenge and support.

Working Together

We know that students achieve their best when school and home work together.

We ask for your support in ensuring your child attends regularly, arrives punctually, has the correct equipment and completes their weekly Knowledge Expert homework for each subject.

In return, we will continue to provide high-quality teaching, an ambitious curriculum and the support and challenge every student needs to succeed.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to another successful year at Mount St Joseph and to seeing our students demonstrate Excellence at MSJ every day.

Yours sincerely,

Quality of Education Team