

ST COLUMBA'S CATHOLIC BOYS' SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' POLICY STATEMENT



Curriculum Policy

Head Teacher: Mr N Fisher
School Lead: Mr P Shields
Chair of Governors: Mrs S Biggs

Originator Date	October 2013
Review Date	Autumn 2014

St Columba's Catholic Boys' School follows the curriculum guidance outlined in the Single Academy Model Mainstream Funding Agreement. It ensures that a broad and balanced curriculum is provided to its students, incorporating English, Maths and Science qualifications along with the provision of religious education teaching for 11-16.

In line with the funding agreement Section 25 (C) The Archdiocese of Southwark (Education Commission) will be the Inspecting Person for Religious Education, Collective Worship, and the Catholic Life of the School (Section 48 Inspection).

The curriculum at KS3 and KS4 follows the National Curriculum. The Religious Education curriculum, along with morning tutor time, provides ample opportunity to cover a comprehensive programme of personal, social and health education, along with careers advice and guidance. We also employ the services of 'Prospects' to provide our students within independent Careers Information Advice and Guidance.

Objectives relating to the curriculum aims of St Columba's Catholic Boys' School are:

- St Columba's Catholic Boys' School is a community where the Gospel values inform all aspects of community life and learning;
- We seek to promote the dignity, self-esteem and full development of each person who is made in God's image and uniquely loved by God;
- We seek to prepare and empower our students to meet and gain from the opportunities and challenges in an ever changing technological society;
- We provide a comprehensive curriculum for all students to enable success;
- That all students should be offered a curriculum that has breadth and depth. It must be tailored to each student and satisfy their requirements;
- That students should become aware of their abilities and in so doing should develop them to their maximum potential;
- That students should be aware of the needs of the community and be prepared to contribute fully to the life of the community;
- That students who leave St Columba's should be articulate, literate and numerate, and have lively, enquiring, independent minds;
- That students who leave St Columba's should:
 - be confident in their dealings with adults and peers;
 - be able to develop good working relationships with others;
 - have knowledge of a wide range of cultures and through this come to respect the rights and needs of others;
 - be able to make good moral judgements;
 - have developed a love of learning that will last for the rest of their lives;
 - be adaptable enough to react to the needs of a fast changing world.

Details of the curriculum can be found on the school's website.

Key Stage 3

The Curriculum for Key Stage 3 is as follows based on a two week time table of 50 one hour lessons.

Subject	Year 7	%	Year 8	%
Religious Education	5	10	5	10
English	7	14	7	14
Mathematics	7	14	7	14
Literacy	2	4	2	4
History	3	6	3	6
Geography	3	6	3	6
French	3	6	4	8
Science	6	12	6	12
PE	4	8	3	6
IT	2	4	2	4
Art	2	4	2	4
Drama	1	2	1	2
Music	2	4	2	4
DT	2	4	2	4
Extended Tutorial Period	1	2	1	2
Total	50	100	50	100

In year 7 and 8 students are streamed by Maths and English and set in Science. Students are set in English, Maths and Science based on their CATS scores. From then onwards they are set by curriculum leaders three times a year.

Religious Education is allocated 10% of curriculum time in line with the requirements of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

Key Stage 4

All students follow a core curriculum of GCSEs (or Equivalent) in English Language, Mathematics, Science, Religious Education, along with core PE (non-examined). This accounts for 70% of curriculum time broken down as follows for year 10 and year 11:

Subject	Year 9	%	Year 10	%	Year 11	%
Religious Education (GCSE)	5	10	5	10	5	10
English (GCSE)	7	14	7	14	7	14
Literacy (non-exam)	2	4	2	4	2	4
Mathematics (GCSE)	8	16	8	16	8	16
Science (GCSE or Equivalent)	7	14	7	14	9	18
IT (Equivalent)	2	4	2	4	2	4
PE (non exam)	3	6	3	6	4	8
Tutorial Period (non exam)	1	2	1	2	1	2
Total	35	70	35	70	38	76

In addition:

- Some students will be selected by the English department to study English Literature GCSE within the allocated English time above.
- Some students may be selected by the mathematics department to study Statistics GCSE within the allocated Mathematics time above.
- Students will be selected by the science department to study Additional, Core or BTec science depending on aptitude or attainment.

Students are guided to fill the remainder of the time with up to three options from the following:

GCSE Triple Science	GCSE Art
GCSE History	GCSE Music
GCSE Geography	GCSE Food Technology
GCSE French	GCSE Resistant Materials
GCSE Spanish	GCSE Drama
GCSE Leisure and Tourism	GCSE PE
Level 2 Nutrition and Health	PE BTec
ALAN	

All courses taught on site are level 2 courses with the exception of ASDAN with students guided to the most appropriate courses where they are capable of achieving a level 2 qualification. Courses are studied until the end of Year 11. Option blocks are formed based upon the student choices, staffing availability and sufficient numbers to run a particular course.

Disapplication

In accordance with the law, the school has the right to respond to individual needs by modifying the National Curriculum programmes, or disapplying the National Curriculum for the duration of Key Stage 4, to:

- Allow a student to participate in extended work-related learning
- Allow a student with individual strengths to emphasise a particular curriculum area
- Allow a student making significantly less progress than other students of his age to consolidate his learning and progress across the curriculum

Decisions about any of the above will only be made after discussion with the student and parent. The Deputy Head Teacher with responsibility for Pastoral Life of the school coordinates such disapplication.

Religious Education

Religious education is available to all students and is regarded a core subject in our curriculum to manifest our ethos as a Catholic School.

Collective Worship

All students are expected to take part in a daily collective act of worship. The worship is mainly of a Catholic/Christian character.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of collective worship. Parents should inform the Head Teacher in writing if they wish to withdraw their child from collective worship.

Education in Human Love

The school provides sex education in the basic curriculum for all students, in which students are encouraged and guided by moral principle and taught to recognise the value of family life. A full statement of the schools' Education in Human Love Policy is available to parents. It has been drawn up in consultation with staff, students, parents and takes into account the views of representatives from the community. It has regard for the Government's guidance in Sex and Relationship Guidance (0116/2000). It is modelled on the Policy presented by the Archdiocese of Southwark.

In accordance with the law the biological aspects of human reproduction remain compulsory for all students, but parents may withdraw their children from any other part of the sex education provided without giving reasons.

Political Education

The promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject in the school is forbidden by law. Political issues are introduced in a number of courses and are presented in a balanced manner.

Community Cohesion

By community cohesion, the Government means through its curriculum the school will work towards creating a society in which there is a common vision and sense of belonging by all communities; a society in which the diversity of people's backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and valued; a society in which similar life opportunities are available to all; and a society in which strong and positive relationships exist and continue to be developed in the workplace, in schools and in the wider community.

PE and Games

All students are expected to take part in the school's physical education and games programme. Students can only be excused from PE and games lessons for medical reasons, for which a note from a parent will suffice, or other reasons agreed with the school.

Special Educational Needs

The school has a special educational needs policy for statemented and non-statemented students. The school will determine the appropriate courses in consultation with parents.

Concerns and Complaints

Parents who have concerns about any aspect of the curriculum should discuss these in the first instance with the student's tutor.

If the issue is not resolved parents should make an official complaint in writing to the Head Teacher.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored by the Deputy Head Teacher (Quality of Teaching) who will report to the Head Teacher on its implementation on a regular basis.

The Head Teacher will report to the Governing Body's Curriculum and Pastoral Committee on the progress of the policy and will recommend any changes.

Homework

Extract from Teaching and Learning Policy:

Learning takes place inside and outside the classroom. To support students, homework must be planned, meaningful, clear and set regularly.

i) Homework must be set according to the homework timetable. This enables students to plan their time effectively

ii) A variety of homework tasks can be set, such as:

- Questions
- Research
- Thinking
- Reading
- Extended writing
- Past papers
- Notes
- Learning/revision

iii) **All homework must be assessed.** This can be done in a variety of ways, such as:

- Marked by the teacher
- Peer/self-assessment
- Orally

- By testing

iv) Homework tasks must be planned and must not be 'complete classwork'. Homework should normally be set at the start of the lesson. Setting homework at the end of the lesson should be avoided. Homework should be written on the board alongside the Lesson Objective(s)

v) Students must be clear about the purpose of the homework and how it will be assessed

vi) Students must be given clear written instructions of the homework task, deadline and how to complete the work.

vii) It is the responsibility of the teacher and student to ensure that homework is written in the students' planner

viii) It is the responsibility of the teacher to ensure the homework is recorded in Sims Learning Gateway

Homework - Detailed Guidance

In accordance with the terms of this Policy – Home learning must be set and completed to conform to the minimum guidelines set out below. This homework must be set on the Sims learning gateway.

Guided learning hours per subject:

Subject	KS3 hours per fortnight	KS4 hours per fortnight
Core Curriculum		
English	3	4
Maths	3	4
Science	2	3
RE	2	3
IT	1	2
Sub total		16
Option Curriculum Key Stage 4		
History	2	3
Geography	2	3
Modern Languages	2	3
Triple Science		3
PE (GCSE-BTEC)		3
Art	1	3
DT	1	3
Music	1	3
Sub-total		9
Total	20	25