



Curriculum Policy

June 2019

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Mission Statement

The Becket is a Catholic school. Our mission is to work in partnership with parents and carers to provide an outstanding Catholic education for all our young people. This means:

- Inspiring and motivating young people to achieve their full potential academically, spiritually, socially and in a full range of extra-curricular activities*
- Helping young people to grow in the love and knowledge of Jesus Christ*
- Developing in young people a deep knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith*
- Practising Gospel values, such as forgiveness and helping those in need, within our school community and in society as a whole.*

An intelligent mind acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge - Proverbs 18:15

1. Introduction

The curriculum is the formal means by which the school translates its aims and values into practice. It comprises all the planned activities and experiences which the school provides to help students to learn. The Becket School is a Catholic school which is firmly committed to the principle of providing a broad and balanced curriculum. This supports our aim of providing outstanding Catholic education for all.

2. Principles

The aims of our curriculum are to:

- a) Provide knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith;
- b) Provide equal opportunities for all students regardless of gender, cultural or ethnic background;
- c) Offer a broad and balanced entitlement to all students;
- d) Prepare students for further study, the world of work and to become active citizens;
- e) Encourage students to develop spiritually, morally and socially so that their experience within the curriculum will underpin the knowledge and skills that they develop;
- f) Provide a variety of activities which bring about effective learning, provide appropriate challenges for all students and lead to achievement for all students;
- g) Provide continuity and progression from the point of transfer to the time of leaving school.

3. Curriculum Structure

- a) The curriculum is planned in a coherent manner ensuring it meets legal requirements and embraces cross-curricular themes and cross-curricular skills, in particular, those of literacy and numeracy.
- b) The development of students' personal and social skills and their spiritual and cultural development is addressed specifically through discrete lessons once every half term, retreat days for each year group, residential trips and Acts of Worship, as well as permeating the whole curriculum.

4. KS3 Curriculum

In Years 7-8, students study a common curriculum comprising timetabled lessons in Religious Education (R.E.), English, Maths, Science, Geography, History, MFL (both French and German for the majority of students), Computing, Information Technology (I.T.), Art & Design, Drama, Music, Design & Technology, Food Technology and Physical Education (P.E.).

5. KS4 Curriculum

- a) In Years 9-11, students study a broad core of subjects including R.E., English Language, English Literature, Maths, Science (this is studied as three individual subjects or as a dual award) and P.E. All of these subjects, excluding P.E., are studied at GCSE level.
- b) In addition students are able to express a preference for further subjects via the Options Programme to support their individual interests and aspirations.
- c) The Option Pathways are put together to ensure that all students have the opportunity to achieve the English Baccalaureate.
- d) In response to a student's individual needs, during KS4, the school may also:
 - 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/her age to consolidate his/her learning and progress across the curriculum.

(Decisions about any of the above will only be made after discussion with the student and the parent/carer).

6. KS5 Curriculum

- In Years 12-13, students are able to select from a range of Level 3 subjects which are taught at The Becket School. Students generally follow the AS content of courses in Year 12 moving to the A2/A Level content in Year 13.
- The qualifications delivered are designed to allow students the maximum possible opportunity to progress towards Higher Education, Level 4 Apprenticeships or paid employment. Students are offered the opportunity to study for the Extended Project Qualification, follow a general Religious Education programme and engage in a variety of enrichment activities.

7. Equal Opportunities

Entry to all programmes of study is based on academic suitability and appropriateness, regardless of sex, race, disability, religion or belief.

8. Disability

In accordance with the statutory requirements, the school aims to make the curriculum accessible to all students as far as is reasonably practicable. The school has an Equality Policy which is available to parents/carers on request.

9. R.E.

All students, from Years 7-13, study R.E. All programmes follow the curriculum directory from the Catholic Church.

10. Relationships & Sex Education (RSE)

The school provides Relationships & Sex Education for all students. Relationship & Sex Education (RSE) is essential for young people to learn about the nature of marriage, family life and relationships, taught in an age appropriate way. In Catholic schools RSE must be taught in the context of Church teaching and with the full consultation and involvement of parents. See the Relationships & Sex Education policy for further detail.

11. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (S.M.S.C.) Development

- Students are encouraged through the curriculum to develop their self-esteem, self-knowledge, self-confidence and how these relate to the democratic process within our society.
- Students are encouraged to appreciate the range of different faiths and beliefs and why tolerance of these are part of a democratic society.

12. Physical Education (P.E.)

- All students are expected to take part in the school's Physical Education programme.
- Students can only be excused from P.E. lessons for medical reasons, or other reasons agreed with the school - a note from a parent/carer will suffice in such circumstances. A student excused from a P.E. lesson will be asked to assume a role within the lesson.

13. Extra-Curricular Activities

The school has a wide and varied programme of extra-curricular and sporting activities that take place outside the formal curriculum. All students are encouraged to take part in the programme. The timetable of the extra-curricular provision is published every half term on the school website.

14. Gifted and Talented Provision

Students identified on the Register as 'Gifted and Talented' will be supported as detailed in the Gifted and Talented Policy.

15. Special Educational Needs & Disability

- a) The school has a Special Educational Needs & Disability Policy to support students with special educational needs and/or disabilities through a graduated response.
- b) The school will determine the appropriate courses in consultation with the parents/carers.

16. Concerns and Complaints

Parents/carers who have concerns about any aspects of the curriculum should discuss these in the first instance with the student's Tutor/Progress Leader. If the issue is not resolved, parents/carers should make an official complaint in writing to the Headteacher as per the school's Complaints Policy.

17. Monitoring and Review

This Policy will be monitored by the Assistant Headteacher (Curriculum), who will report to the Headteacher on its implementation on a regular basis. The Assistant Headteacher (Curriculum) will report to the Governing Body, or the relevant representative, on the effectiveness of the Policy, and will recommend any changes.

Approved by Full Governing Body: 30.01.2021
Next review date: July 2023