



**St Joseph's Roman
Catholic High School**

Curriculum Statement of Intent

Jesus Christ is our family role model

Opening our hearts and minds to dream the impossible
and achieve beyond our wildest imagination

Everybody is valued and respected

Young and old will journey together to build God's
Kingdom.

Striving for academic excellence and celebrating success
in all we do

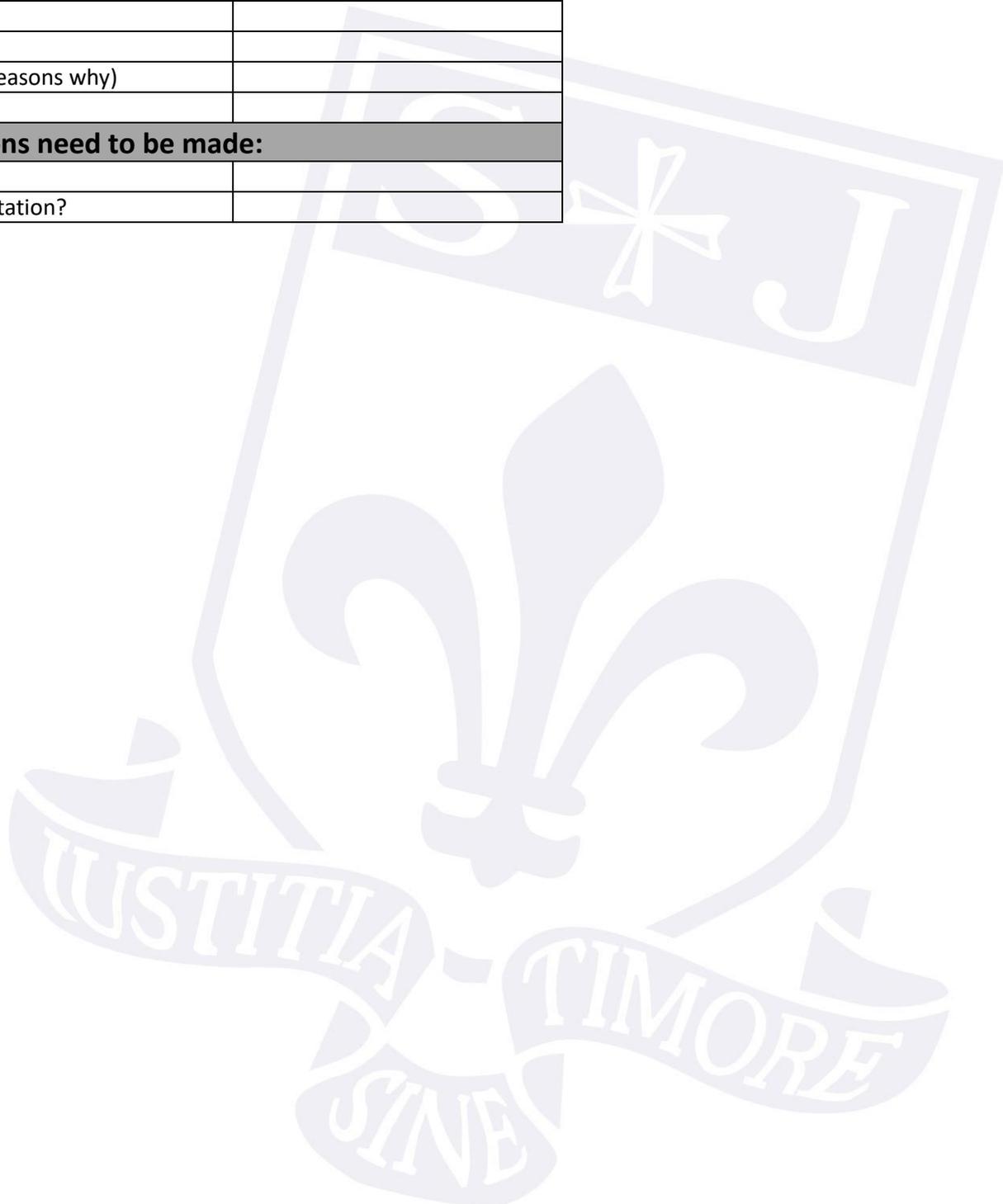
Approved by Governors:

Date for Review:

Version Control

Current Version	Previous Version	Summary of Changes Made

Policy Impact Statement	
Policy:	
This Policy has been implemented:	
Fully	
Partially	
Occasionally	
Not at all (give reasons why)	
What revisions need to be made:	
To the Policy?	
To its implementation?	



Statement of Curriculum Intent

Our Mission Statement states that Jesus Christ is our role model. Jesus tells us that “I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full” (John 10.10). Therefore our curriculum is characterised by Academic Excellence and aims to allow our students to achieve their full potential and prepare them for the world of work and life beyond school. It will be broad and balanced (Education Act 2002 S78) so that every student is afforded the opportunity to reach their potential regardless of aptitude, ability or situation.

Our curriculum aims to empower every student to develop as an independent, free thinking individual with a conscience rooted in Christian values, who can cope with challenges by developing resilience and living Christ’s message. This will enable them to contribute positively to society, the Church and later to the world of work. Our curriculum intends that students should ‘aspire to be more’ and that most should aim to progress onto university. As such we will offer a range of challenging GCSE subjects so that our pupils can compete with the best. We will also seek to ensure that our provision also caters for those with vocational attitudes with dedicated CIAG and a broad and balanced curriculum that builds on skills as well as knowledge in a spiral approach across the five years that students are with us. We recognise that there is more than GCSE outcomes to the curriculum and seek to offer all students an entitlement to a rich and varied extra curriculum through a ‘bucket list’ of activities to partake in whilst at St Joseph’s.

We encourage all pupils, with the support of their families, to take all the opportunities which our curriculum offers, both within formal lessons and beyond the classroom, so that when they leave our school they can continue to ‘aspire to be more’ and become ‘game changers’ in God’s world.

Curriculum Principles

The curriculum at St Joseph’s comprises all those activities and experiences which contribute to the intellectual, spiritual, physical, social and emotional development of members of our community. This includes the extended or out-of-hours curriculum which contributes to the ethos of the school, promoting the values expressed in our Mission Statement and School Aims.

St Joseph’s bases its curriculum on the principle that all pupils should have access to a broad, balanced, relevant and coherent curriculum, irrespective of their personal aptitudes and abilities. The school seeks to ensure equality of opportunity within the curriculum for all pupils within the confines of the available resources – financial and structural.

All pupils have in common a need to acquire the knowledge, concepts, skills and attitudes necessary for their own development, and for playing a full part in society. In general, the purpose of the curriculum is to help all pupils to achieve this development, each to their own potential within the context of the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Therefore, our curriculum aims to help pupils:

- i) To deepen their understanding of Gospel values, of the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church and of their own spiritual potential.
- ii) To become enthusiastic learners, with the ability to question, argue and reason, developing the skills and motivation to pursue independent lines of enquiry.

- iii) To develop self-confidence, and self-discipline, grow in self-esteem, and develop sensitivity to and respect for others.
- iv) To communicate in a variety of ways, using a wide range of media.
- v) To develop a respect for their community and for the environment, and an appreciation of the interdependence of all aspects of the world.
- vi) To foster an appreciation of a wide range of human achievements.
- vii) To acquire knowledge and skills in preparation for adult life, and the world of work.
- viii) To promote a healthy lifestyle, encouraging participation in physical activity and nurturing talent.

Curriculum Design and Content

St Joseph's curriculum must achieve breadth by bringing all pupils into contact with a wide range of areas of learning and experience. It cannot be assumed that this breadth in the curriculum is guaranteed simply by the range of subjects offered under the National Curriculum. Balance must be achieved in the curriculum by ensuring that each of these areas, for each pupil, is allowed sufficient scope for development, in terms of time and resources with the available financial and structural resources. Equally, there should be a balance in the variety of teaching styles employed in each classroom, with avoidance of the over use of any one particular style. A balance should be achieved also across the range of types of work required of the pupils in each classroom, with avoidance of overdue emphasis on any one particular kind of work. Each area of learning should draw upon the pupil's experience of the world, and enhance their understanding of it within the context of the teachings of the Catholic Church. What is taught and learned should be perceived by pupils to meet their present needs, be relevant to the prospective needs of adult life, serve to enhance their enjoyment of learning or further their interest in, and understanding of the world.

The requirements of the Citizenship and the Enterprise Curriculum are met by tailored programmes for each year group. There are two nominated members of staff with specific responsibilities for each to these areas to ensure the quality of these programmes. Each curriculum area identifies aspects of their schemes which contribute to such coverage, in particular during the Curriculum Enrichment Days.

St Joseph's curriculum must be differentiated, in that it must possess the capacity to cater for the needs, abilities and interests of each individual pupil. It is important, then, that departments identify and seek to meet the varying needs and ability levels of the pupils in each teaching group.

The Special Status of Religious Education

In using Christ as "our family role model", it follows that the path to full achievement of potential is, for each person, only to be found through sound knowledge of His teachings, followed ever more closely through a deepening spiritual awareness of His presence in our lives. Since as Catholics we believe that a person's potential can only be fully realised through a lived commitment to Christ, based upon an informed understanding of His way, it follows that Religious Education is central to St Joseph's curriculum. It is also essential to the rounded development of each pupil and will therefore form a core part of our curriculum. St Joseph's school also recognises that the spiritual and moral development of each pupil is not the sole responsibility of

the Religious Education Department, but rather, in word and in deed, by teaching and by example, and at all times that of every member of the school community.

The Curriculum and the Community

The school recognises that close involvement with the community enhances the quality of teaching, learning, attainment and progress. Where resources permit it, we aim to take every opportunity to: ~ use the knowledge and expertise of members of our local, national and international communities to enrich the work of departments. ~ use the facilities and environment of the community as teaching and learning resources in helping to develop pupils' knowledge, skills and attitudes. ~ develop a healthy community approach in our pupils by introducing them to important local, national and international issues, and by encouraging them to become actively engaged. ~ involve the pupils practically in community work (e.g. SVP, choir; assemblies, Masses, primary schools; help with community projects etc). ~ ensure that each department updates and revises schemes of work to include new community projects as they are introduced.

In this way, "the community" is regarded as a natural resource, to be drawn upon across the curriculum as an essential part of school life.

Partnership with Parents

In meeting its responsibilities to parents, St Joseph's seeks to foster an open door policy. The school endeavours to inform parents as fully as possible on the progress of their child, and on the performance of the school as a whole. Parents are welcome into school at any time to discuss their child's schooling and are warmly invited to attend the many functions and celebrations which take place during the school year.

The school will endeavour to ensure that;

- i) Girls and boys equally are positively engaged in the whole range of curricular provision.
- ii) All curricular areas contribute towards a broad and balanced education.
- iii) All curriculum areas contribute towards the moral and spiritual development of each individual.
- v) Access to the curriculum is extended to pupils having special educational needs through the provision of appropriate support.
- v) Wherever possible, parents are engaged in the process of supporting children through the education programme.
- vi) Due consideration is given to recognising the importance of community involvement in enhancing the quality of teaching, learning, attainment and progress.
- vii) Processes of assessment and recording enable pupils' strengths to be extended and limitations reduced.
- viii) Manageable processes of recording ensure continuity and progression of pupils' learning
- ix) The school curriculum as a whole promotes high expectations of pupils' performance.

x) The delivery of the curriculum encourages the development of self-esteem.

St Joseph's curriculum will be reviewed regularly in order to reflect current educational understanding, the changing nature of the school's intake and the latest governmental and national requirements and the available resources.

