

Curriculum Delivery Detail

Year 7 and Year 8

On admission to St. Joseph's, learners are placed into mixed ability form groups for pastoral time and two equal ability bands using information from our associated primary schools and parental requests where possible. The majority of our pupils are already high attainers when they join us. In order to encourage aspirations even further, those who achieved the highest marks in the National Tests at the end of year 6 are placed in a separate group in each band for their subjects. Other pupils are taught in two parallel bands. For Mathematics and Science pupils are based in sets from their relevant KS2 Maths scaled score and baseline assessments at the beginning of Y7. For English pupils are placed in two equal bands of sets based on their relevant KS2 score and baseline assessments carried out at the beginning of Y7.

In Year 8, in order to continue to encourage aspirations even further, those who achieved the highest marks in the National Tests at the end of year 6 and the highest achievers at the end of year 7 are placed in a separate band for all their subjects. Other pupils are taught in two parallel bands. For Mathematics and Science pupils are based in sets on their data to date and for English pupils are placed in two equal bands of sets based on their relevant data available.

All groupings and bandings are reviewed following each data capture. Progress in one subject area may not necessarily result in a change of band as a number of different subjects will be tied together. Technology is taught in smaller mixed ability groups.

During the first two years at St. Joseph's all students study:

- Religious Education
- English
- Mathematics
- Science (covering Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- History
- Geography
- Modern Foreign Language (Spanish)
- Physical Education
- Design Technology
- Drama
- Art
- Music
- Programming and Computing

Where a National Curriculum programme of study exists for a subject, all pupils will follow it. Personal, Social, Health and Enterprise Education and Citizenship is delivered in tutorial time and Curriculum Enrichment Days.

Year 8

During Year 8, consultation between the Head of Year, Form Tutors and interviews with Senior Leaders take place to agree an appropriate Pathway for each pupil from Year 9, this ensures that the individual needs of each child are carefully considered. Parents/carers and students are invited to information evenings and have one to one guidance with a member of the senior team.

At this time most students will choose the Specialist subjects that they wish to specialise in at Level 2 (GCSE). Compulsory subjects currently include English, Maths, Combined Science, Religious Studies and core Physical Education.

Most pupils will follow an Orange Pathway which fulfils the EBacc criteria as on entry to St Joseph's a significant number of our pupils are high prior attainers. Some pupils may study the Purple Pathway in which MFL is a specialist subject. Some pupils may follow the Blue Pathway where one Specialist subject is replaced by a Foundation Learning Programme; some pupils may follow a tailored vocational programme and some pupils may undertake an extended work experience programme. During the consultation in Year 8 parents are invited in to school to a meeting to ensure that the individual needs of each child are carefully considered. All pathways ensure that pupils study a broad and balanced curriculum which provides them with a wide range of future opportunities.

Our KS3 audit indicates that the KS3 National Curriculum end points are met within Y7 and Y8. The clearly planned and sequenced Schemes of Work in each department ensure that all topics are covered in the required breadth and depth for each pupil. In the core curriculum subjects, Maths and English where pupils are taught in sets there may be some KS3 National Curriculum content that is delivered in breadth but developed in detail as pupils move from Y8 to Y9, this is to support the mastery of the content and skills that are covered to promote further learning and progress across the subjects. Subject leads are aware of where this occurs and with which classes, in the best interests of the pupils. Pathways are structured in such that promotes equity of delivery and are designed to stretch and challenge pupils and to meet the demands of the local labour market and the future employability of our pupils.

Year 9 - 11

From Year 9 our pupils will follow GCSE or equivalent courses which comprise of Compulsory Core subjects and Specialist subjects lasting three years. This is a deliberate action to engage pupils and enable pupils to really enjoy their subject and learn the depth of their subject over a three year course. Early in year 9, pupils are able to move between subjects within option blocks thereby ensuring that they are satisfied with their option choices at the start of KS4.

Where a National Curriculum programme of study exists for a subject, all pupils will follow it. Careers Information, Advice and Guidance and Personal, Social, Health and Enterprise Education and Citizenship are delivered in a range of subjects and also in form time and Curriculum Enrichment Days. Most of our learners go onto further education, studying A-Levels and Level 3 BTECs. Our Tutor time programme and CEIAG approach is to encourage as many of them to go to study at University and gain high quality degrees. Some of our learners decide to enter the world of employment, training or apprentice at 16 but whatever route they choose, they have the support and encouragement from school to help them succeed.

The requirements of Citizenship and the Enterprise Curriculum together with the promotion of Fundamental British Values and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education are met by tailored programmes for each year group as well as cross-curriculum mapping. The development of SMSC is further supported by the promotion of Gospel Values within our context of a Catholic school. 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. Curriculum Mapping demonstrates where each of the statutory strands are delivered to pupils in our curriculum.

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.

In RE and English students are set according to ability in two bands. Mathematics and Science are taught within two different ability bands. Specialist subjects are taught in mixed groups. Obviously GCSE and equivalent qualification provision at any given time depends on different factors, including government requirements, which are open to modification from time to time. Our current arrangements are that all pupils will study a common core of:

- Religious Education
- Mathematics
- English Language
- English Literature
- Combined Science – Trilogy.
 - The more able pupils may be entered for Separate Sciences.
- Physical Education (non-examined compulsory non-GCSE course)

In addition to the core subjects, pupils can choose to study some of the following specialist subjects:

- GCSE
 - Art
 - Business Studies with Functional ICT
 - Drama
 - Food and Nutrition
 - French
 - Geography
 - History
 - Music
 - Spanish
 - Technology - focus in Resistant Materials, Graphics or Textile
- OCR Cambridge National Diplomas
 - Sports Science
 - Creative iMedia
- BTec Technical Awards
 - Health and Social