

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 enriching 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.

Our curriculum is designed to be:

- Ambitious and aspirational model with academic rigour
- Broad, balanced built for knowledge and cultural capital
- Clearly planned and sequenced
- Delegated curriculum leadership
- Equal ambitions and opportunities for all
- Full and rich curriculum offer founded on our core values

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.

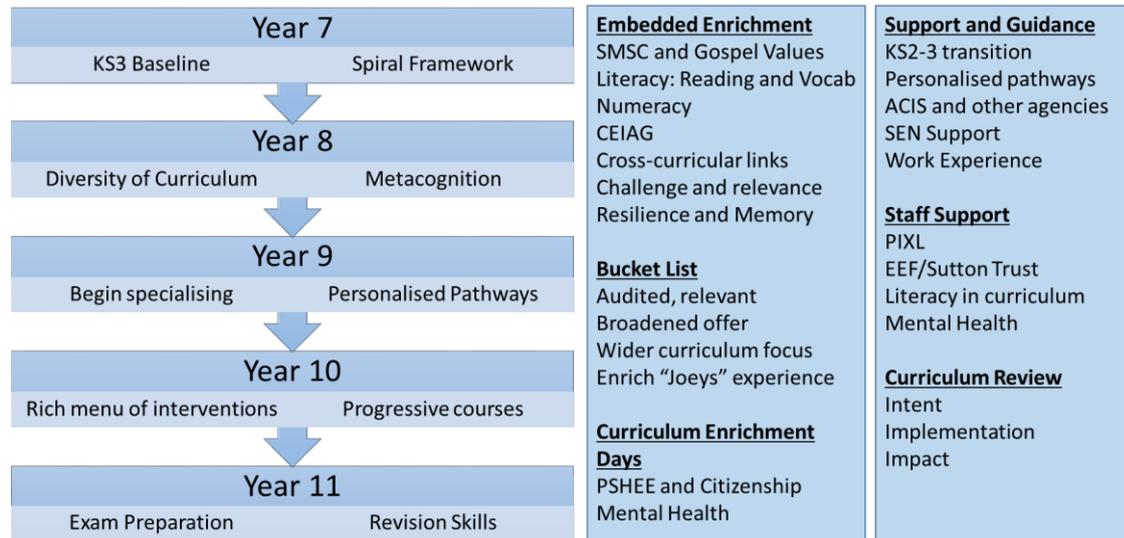
Therefore, our curriculum aims to help pupils:

- 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.

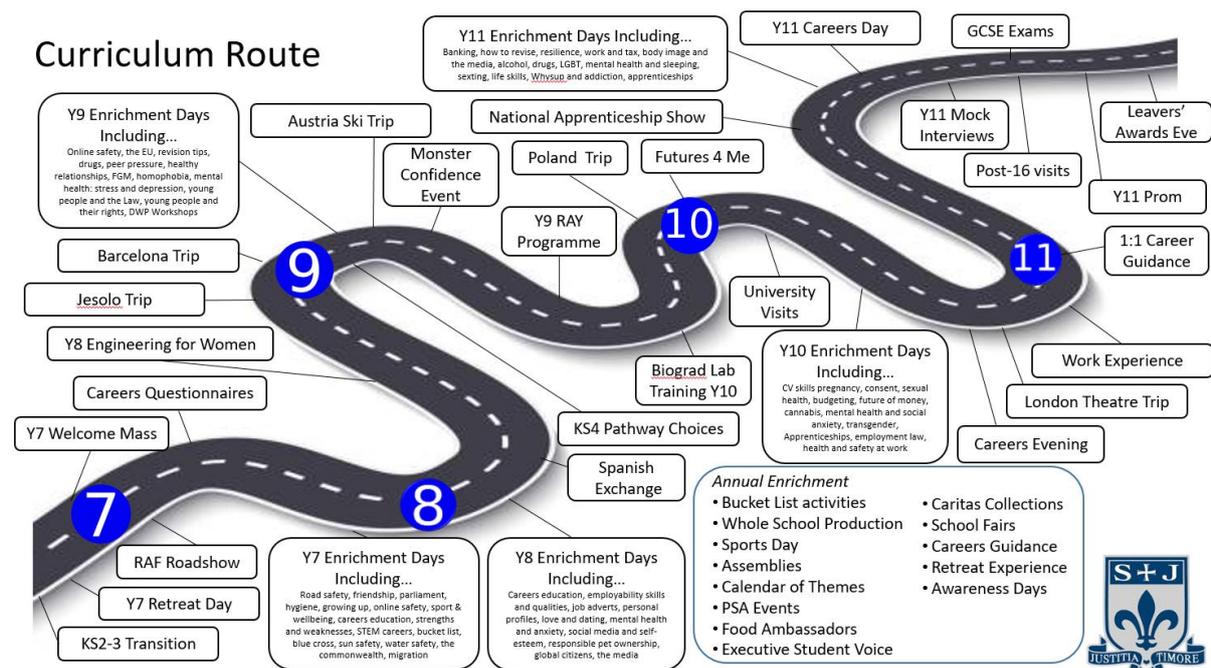
Implementation

Curriculum Design and Content

St Joseph's curriculum is designed as a 5 year spiral curriculum where key concepts are presented repeatedly through the curriculum but with deepening layers of complexity. This is to ensure that all pupils are offered a rich curriculum that provides them with a deep understanding of content and skills to prepare them for life at St Joseph's and beyond.



St Joseph's curriculum achieves breadth by bringing all pupils into contact with a wide range of areas of learning and experience. This breadth in the curriculum is underpinned by the range of subjects offered under the National Curriculum, the implementation of which is audited to ensure that National Curriculum end points are reached by each pupil in KS3. It is then enhanced by a vast range of opportunities as part of our enrichment offer to deepen a pupil's "Joeys' experience".



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) All pupils 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.

- iv) 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.

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.
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Impact

The St Joseph's Curriculum will:

- i) Deepen our pupils' understanding of Gospel values, of the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church and of their own spiritual potential.
- ii) Maximise outcomes for our pupils, so that pupils have a broad range of post-16 opportunities available to them
- iii) Develop our pupils as enthusiastic learners, with the ability to question, argue and reason, developing the skills and motivation to pursue independent lines of enquiry
- iv) Instil self-confidence and self-discipline in our pupils, allowing them to grow in self-esteem, and develop sensitivity to and respect for others.
- v) Teach our pupils to communicate in a variety of ways, using a wide range of media.
- vi) To develop a respect for their community and for the environment, and an appreciation of the interdependence of all aspects of the world.
- vii) Celebrate successes and foster within our pupils an appreciation of a wide range of achievements.
- viii) Provide our pupils with opportunities to acquire knowledge and skills in preparation for adult life and the world of work.
- ix) Promote a healthy lifestyle for our pupils, encouraging their participation in physical activity and nurturing talent.

