

St. John Baptist Church in Wales High School



CURRICULUM POLICY

Signed by Chair of Governors on behalf of the Governing Body.....

Signed by Headteacher.....

Date: September 2019

Curriculum Policy

Aims and Values

In accordance with the aims of the school, the governors adopt an inclusive philosophy that declares that each and every individual is valued, has the capacity to progress, and can make a positive and unique contribution to society. It promotes the notion that ‘ability’ can be demonstrated in a variety of different ways and contexts, that different abilities and skills can be learned, and that each person has different and preferred ways of learning.

This would advocate a broad and balanced curriculum that recognises and accredits achievement in all types of learning, not just those linked with the academic. It would endorse a curriculum for the twenty first century that promotes both personal and future career development, with flexible learning routes in different contexts that are coherent and progressive. Such a curriculum would focus on the learning of personal skills and skills that respond to the needs of employers and the community, at a level and pace appropriate for each learner.

The Governors will also ensure that the curriculum provides in full all that is required by legislation and they expect the Headteacher to play a significant part in this process. The Headteacher will bring proposals to the Governors for any changes in the school’s curriculum pattern designed to accommodate the progressive introduction of legislative change or initiated internally by the school for the benefit of its pupils.

Key Stage 3

The governors believe that all pupils should have equal access to the Key Stage 3 National Curriculum. The curriculum should be organised so that learning for each pupil is suitably challenging and progresses at an appropriate pace.

Any disapplication or deviation from a pupil’s entitlement to the full curriculum because of Special Educational Needs should only be made in exceptional circumstances and when the Headteacher is fully satisfied that this is in the pupil’s best interest.

Key Stage 4

In line with the Welsh Assembly Government vision for age 14-19 Learning Pathways, the governors seek to provide flexible learning pathways for the needs of each pupil which leads to an approved qualification at the right level and at the right time, but also respond to the needs of employers and the local community. Recognition and accreditation of each pupil’s range of achievements will encompass the *formal*, *informal* and *non-formal* curriculum elements of Learning Pathways, which can be highlighted in each pupil’s Progress File.

National Curriculum and Statutory Requirements

The school’s formal curriculum must also incorporate the National Curriculum mandatory subjects for Key stage 4 in Wales, viz. English, Maths, Science, Welsh, and Physical Education. Other statutory requirements are also applied, such as sex education and careers education and guidance, which are included in the PSE programme, and work-related education for a period of one week in Year 10. In addition, the Governors of the school have deemed that RE at GCSE should also be compulsory for each pupil at Key Stage 4.

Options

Although pupils study a significant number of mandatory subjects of the National Curriculum, the governors are still keen to explore collaborative possibilities with external providers to ensure a wider choice of subjects and greater flexibility of learning pathways in the option blocks.

Personal Development and Achievement

Christian principles define the core ethos and values of a Church school that include a love of God, self and others, as the key to independent and interdependent achievement and happiness. The PSE programme and services of worship embrace these values and so promote each pupil's personal, social, moral, spiritual and wider development. Elements of such development are also incorporated into the schemes of work and lessons in all subjects.

Pastoral Support

Pastoral guidance and emotional support is made available through the learning managers.

Careers Guidance

The school has a Careers representative from Careers Wales on site for two days per week to advise pupils in their choice of pathways.

Key Stage 5

The vast majority of students tend to return to Year 12 to progress their learning from Level 2 to Level 3, with a few deciding to progress from Level 1 to Level 2 in vocational courses. At the end of Year 11, approximately 20-30% pupils opt to leave school to follow courses in colleges of Further education within and outside the Cynon Valley.

Options

The school offers a range of GCE courses at Level 3 that responds to the needs of employers and enable students to progress to and access their chosen Level 4 courses, usually in Higher Education.

Again, the school will explore collaborative possibilities with external providers to ensure a wider choice of subjects and flexibility of learning pathways in the option blocks, and investigate the possibilities of e-learning, distance learning, and work related learning amongst others.

The Learning Core

The school contributes to the personal development of pupils through the PSE classes that include sex education, and careers education and guidance. In years 12 and 13, the timetable is suspended for one day each term and external speakers are invited to facilitate such 'Religious Education' days.

Key skills are incorporated into schemes of work and opportunities exist for students to develop in areas such as Communication, Working with Others, and Improving Own Learning and Performance. General enrichment classes, extra curricular activities, and lunchtime clubs also contribute to developing each student's range of skills. Governors and the school will continue to advocate ways of enhancing personal enrichment and development.

Student Support

The support available to pupils at Key Stage 4 is also available to students at Key stage 5.

