



Curriculum Statement 2016-17

St Richard Reynolds Catholic High School

Policy: Secondary Curriculum Statement

Date of publication: November 2016

Date of approval by Governing Body: November 2016

Date of next review: September 2017

Our College Vision forms the basis upon which the curriculum is based. Our core purpose is to provide outstanding learning and teaching opportunities for all of our students. Our curriculum aims to offer challenge leading to the highest standards of personal achievement through the recognition of individual needs, according to ability and aptitude, and provides varied co-curricular experiences, as well as progression within and between Key Stages.

The Curriculum is reviewed annually by the Governing Body.

Key Stage 3:

Formal Curriculum:

The formal curriculum is divided into a 31 period week at Key Stage 3, with each lesson lasting 50 minutes. Its purpose is to give a broad and balanced education to all our students which includes Religious Education, all National Curriculum subjects and Latin. Students are also given opportunities to develop spiritually, socially, morally, physically, culturally and academically.

Religious Education is at the heart of our curriculum and lessons are carefully planned to ensure that all areas of the Bishops' Curriculum Directory are met i.e. Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ. "The outcome of excellent Religious Education is religiously literate and engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life". (The Bishops' Curriculum Directory 2012)

Year 7: All students are taught in mixed ability groupings, some of which are form groups and others are mixed-form groups. Each form has a maximum of 26 students.

Year 8: All students are taught in mixed ability groupings, some of which are form groups and others are mixed-form groups.

Year 9: Maths, Science and Languages are taught in ability groupings, all other classes are taught in mixed ability groupings, some of which are form groups and others are mixed-form groups.

Peripatetic music instrumental lessons are delivered by the Richmond Music Trust for those students who opt to take these additional lessons up.

The allocation of periods to each subject is as follows:

YEAR 7		YEAR 8		YEAR 9	
Subject	Lessons	Subject	Lessons	Subject	Lessons
Religious Education	3	Religious Education	3	Religious Education	3
English	4	English	4	English	4
Mathematics	4	Mathematics	4	Mathematics	4
Science	4	Science	3	Science	4
French	2	French	2	French	2
Latin	1	Latin	1	Latin	0/1
Physical Education	2	Physical Education	2	Physical Education	2
Excel	2	ExcelR8	1	History	2
History	2	History	2	Geography	2
Geography	2	Geography	2	Art	2
Art	2	Art	2	Music	1
Music	1	Music	1	Drama	1
Drama	1	Drama	1	Technology	2
Technology	2	Technology	2	Spanish	1/2
		Spanish	1		
	31		31		31

Opportunities for extended learning outside of the traditional subjects have also been embedded in the College's formal curriculum, known as 'Excel' for Year 7 and 'ExcelR8' for Year 8. These lessons aim to aid a smooth transition from primary to secondary school and to support students' personal development, through increasing their self-confidence and their ability to interact with others. French and Latin are currently taught to Year 7 and 8 – two lessons per week of French and one lesson of Latin per week, while Spanish is added in for Years 8 and 9.

Students with special educational needs are given varying amounts of support both within and outside of lessons depending on their need. All students are supported and stretched through challenging class and homework activities, which are differentiated to meet children's differing abilities and needs.

Key Stage 4:

Formal Curriculum

The formal curriculum is divided into a 31 period week at Key Stage 3, with each lesson lasting 50 minutes. Students study for 6 compulsory GCSEs and will choose an additional 4 GCSE subjects. The choice is open to allow students to tailor their curriculum to best match their interests and needs.

Compulsory		Optional	
Year 10			
Subject	Lessons		Lessons
Religious Studies	3	4 GCSE options	12
English Language	5		
English Literature	(included above)		
Mathematics	4		
Science (2 GCSEs)	5		
PE (non-GCSE)	2		
Total 31 lessons per week			

Religious Studies, English and optional subjects are taught in mixed ability classes. Mathematics and Science are taught in ability groupings.

Some students will be invited to study additional English and Mathematics in place of one GCSE option, receiving an additional 3 period per week of teaching in these subjects.

Some students will follow an alternative curriculum outside of the compulsory curriculum. This will involve the study of vocational subjects.

Students with special educational needs are given varying amounts of support both within and outside of lessons depending on their need. All students are supported and stretched through challenging class and homework activities, which are differentiated to meet children's differing abilities and needs.

Key Stage 3 and 4:

Informal Curriculum:

In both Key Stages, the formal curriculum is supplemented by the informal curriculum, which contributes greatly to the educational experience of students, as well as the Catholic ethos within which learning takes place. We work to ensure that students experience the richness of a Catholic way of living and believing in all areas of College life. After-school events, such as theatre trips, retreats, sports clubs and music groups all serve to help our students fulfil their God-given potential.

PSHCE Provision:

The PSHCE programmes of study are mapped across Key Stage Three and Four and are delivered via four separate PSHCE Days each year. These 'drop down' days give our students the opportunity to further develop their skills of debate and to discuss topical issues beyond their curriculum subjects.

RE Provision:

In accordance with the Bishops' Curriculum Directory, RE has 10% of the curriculum time. Some of this provision is delivered through RE drop down days. These days support and enhance key assessed tasks in Religious Education lessons.

The College Day:

The College follows a weekly timetable, with the days split into six (or seven on a Monday) fifty minute periods, with single and double lessons.

Mass takes place lesson 3 every Friday morning.

HIGH SCHOOL			
Monday		Tuesday- Friday	
8:30am	Tutor Time	8:30am	Tutor Time/Assembly
8:50am	Lesson 1	8:50am	Lesson 1
9:40am	Lesson 2	9:40am	Lesson 2
10:30am	BREAK	10:30am	BREAK

10:50am	Lesson 3	10:50am	Lesson 3
11:40am	Lesson 4	11:40am	Lesson 4
12:30pm	Lunch	12:30pm	Lunch
1:20pm	Lesson 5	1:20pm	Lesson 5
2:10pm	Lesson 6	2:10pm	Lesson 6
3:00pm	Lesson 7	3:00pm	END OF DAY
3:50pm	END OF DAY		

Monday – Yr 8 singing assembly

Yr 9 Head of Year assembly

Yr 7 & 10 – tutor time

Tuesday – Yr 7 singing assembly

Yr 8, 9 & 10 - tutor time

Wednesday – Yr 7 & 8 Collective Worship

Yr 9 & 10 – tutor time

Thursday - Yr 9 & 10 Collective Worship

Yr 8 Head of Year assembly

Yr 7 – tutor time

Friday – Yr 9 singing assembly

Yr 7 & 10 Head of Year assembly

Yr 8 – tutor time
