



Curriculum Impact

‘Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.’
Aristotle.

At St. Mary’s we recognise that parents are the foremost educators of their children. In supporting our parents in the formation of their children, we firmly believe that our pupils benefit greatly from the time spent living, learning, and growing at our academy. We fully understand, value, and indeed treasure the opportunity we have to play our part in helping to shape the formational years of each child’s life who parents entrust to our care and it is a responsibility we embrace wholeheartedly.

In evaluating the impact of our curriculum on pupils, we must return to the principles set out in our ‘Curriculum Intent’ statement. As a Silver Award Rights Respecting School, we primarily seek to develop strong, positive relationships with our pupils, helping mold them into the young person that God intends them to be – well-rounded individuals with a clear sense of mission and self-worth, a strong set of morals, and thereby readying them to ultimately contribute positively to society in service of others. This is achieved through numerous means, including the exemplary role models provided by staff, an outstanding Catholic ethos that permeates the academy, a strong Religious Education curriculum and Collective Worship programme, a robust PSHE curriculum which includes British Values, high quality and dedicated pastoral support for all pupils, and an ongoing focus on charitable outreach for the poor and those less fortunate than ourselves.

“The school’s mission statement, ‘We value all in the name of Jesus Christ’, is well known and understood by the school community at Saint Mary’s. Pupils and staff reflect on the mission at the start of each year and live it out in their daily interactions. Their participation in liturgical and charitable activities, such as the school food bank ‘Give what you can, take what you need’ and the Shoe Box Appeal, reflect a genuine commitment to the school’s mission. Pupils feel secure and valued within the school community: ‘Joy is spread through Jesus in this school’. Their confidence and positive self-image are evident. Pupils display a strong moral compass, rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ and Catholic social teaching.”

Diocesan Canonical Inspection Report, March
2025

The academy constantly monitors the outcomes of pupils on a daily basis within class, and periodically through other processes such as work scrutiny, moderation, ongoing assessment, pupil progress meetings, listening to the pupil voice, and external audit – the outcomes of which feed into future action planning and ongoing adaptations to our curriculum over time, all with the intention of providing our children with the best education possible. Furthermore, our curriculum design continues to be influenced by the academy’s clear commitment to ongoing professional development for our staff. All of this

work is undertaken in accordance with our firm conviction that a strong curriculum necessarily evolves over time, and from a desire to constantly improve and strive for excellence.

We offer a newly revised ambitious, engaging, high quality, and inclusive education to our children and which provides all learners with the pastoral support, knowledge, skills, and cultural capital they need to succeed. It is our firm belief that the substance of our education and the quality of its delivery prepares our children well for the opportunities and challenges they will face in life and at the next stage of their education. This is seen throughout our website and especially class pages and subject sections.

Most importantly of all, we believe that we contribute to the lives of the young people whom we serve by helping to equip them with a spiritual foundation that establishes a strong set of morals rooted in gospel values, with a strong sense of self-worth and love of neighbour, and with a sense of mission for who God ultimately calls them to be.

‘Pupils are proactive in developing a sense of social justice and look to the patron saint of their house group to draw inspiration when selecting which charities they support. For example, St Francis Assisi support an animal charity, St Bernadette Soubirous help the poor through CAFOD, St John Bosco support the local community through ‘Harbour Place’ and St Teresa of Lisieux support Marie Curie, with a little flower as its emblem and the example of St Teresa to ‘do the little things well’

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