



ST CATHERINE'S
COLLEGE
A CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

Curriculum Policy



Date approved: March 2019

Date to be reviewed: March 2021

Our Curriculum

The aim of St Catherine's College is to provide a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of all the students at the school. We aim to offer our pupils a rich experience which develops within them a thirst for and positive attitude towards learning, which inspires them to be the best they can be. Within our Church School, Religious Education has a prominent position and we fully incorporate our mission statement into our curriculum; **God's Children at the heart of everything we do**

We listen, learn and achieve together

We further aim to provide opportunities for children to develop as independent, confident, successful learners with high aspirations, regardless of their starting point, who know how to make a positive contribution to their local community and wider society. This is supported by a wide range of extra-curricular activities, trips and residential opportunities. There is a focus on the knowledge, skills and resilience pupils will need in order to equip them for further education and beyond. At some stages through the curriculum, transferrable skills, such as writing for specific purposes, are promoted and evident through cross-curricular links and teaching.

St Catherine's College provides an inclusive environment where all learners enjoy their education and aspire to make good progress in all subjects and areas of learning. Pupils at all levels are challenged and supported to achieve their potential. Our high expectations are made clear to every pupil, enabling them to work towards achieving their goals. We ensure that pupils who need additional support, including in literacy and numeracy, are quickly identified and that support is robust and effective. Pupils who are at risk of underachievement, such as those eligible for pupil premium, pupils who join the school below national expectations, more able pupils and SEND[1] pupils are identified and given additional and personalised support as appropriate. The School will focus consistently and uncompromisingly upon improving outcomes for all pupils, but especially for disadvantaged pupils. The delivery of the school's curriculum will secure substantial improvement in progress for disadvantaged pupils. To deliver a broad and balanced curriculum, we have a commitment to the development of knowledge and skills throughout a three-year Key Stage Three, ensuring that there is balance between the time given to traditional academic subjects and the time given to Performing and Creative Arts, Technology and Physical Education.

Key features of the curriculum at St Catherine's College are:

A three-year Key Stage Three curriculum ensures pupils build on skills and knowledge that will prepare them for Key Stage Four and beyond, taking into consideration their prior learning and cultural context. When students join us in Year 7, they will have already chosen a language to study – French, Spanish or Mandarin - and, it is strongly encouraged that they continue with this language until the end of Key Stage Four.

A two-year Key Stage Four is followed. The English Baccalaureate continues to be of increasing significance in our curriculum offer, particularly at Key Stage 4 (KS4). We offer the English Baccalaureate[2] to all pupils, as part of the KS4 Options offer, and ensure that all pupils take at least 7 EBACC GCSEs[3] at KS4. We are passionate about maintaining an effective balance between an academic offer and a high quality, vocational experience such as our motor vehicle provision. Therefore, at Key Stage Four, pupils are given time to study and prepare for the Core and EBacc GCSE subjects, alongside PE and RE without losing the breadth of also studying a 'free' option (e.g. a creative or Performing Arts subject, Technology or a second Humanities subject).

A high quality PSHE programme is delivered within Tutor Worship each week, ensuring pupils have a wider understanding of the world we live in. Further details of this can be found in the PSHE policy.

As a consequence of their academic and wider curriculum (such as careers) and other opportunities, pupils have a clear understanding of the options available in the next stage of their education and are supported in and are able to make appropriate choices.

Our curriculum is regularly monitored and discussed through our Line Management procedures and at Senior Leadership Team meetings.

[1] Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

[2] The English Baccalaureate is comprised of a GCSE in English, Maths, two Science GCSEs, a language GCSE and a Humanities GCSE; either History or Geography.

[3] EBACC GCSEs are English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and choose one option from Geography, History, French, Spanish, Computer Science and Mandarin.