



CARDINAL HEENAN
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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Curriculum Policy

Mission Statement

Our Mission

This school exists to serve the Catholic community in providing education of our young within a faith environment, grounded in the vision of Jesus Christ. Our school aims to ensure that all are able to realise their potential, take their responsibilities seriously, respect themselves and others, and grow in the love of God. We aim to serve each other, the Church, parents and the wider community.

We recognise that every person is created in God's image and we value every individual as an equal and with unconditional acceptance. We strive to create an atmosphere where each person is inspired, encouraged and supported to the highest levels of educational achievement.

Our Goals

Worship

To celebrate our faith by creating structures and encouraging attitudes that will make prayer and liturgy highly valued, with all members of our community becoming involved.

Attitudes and Values

To create within the school a caring community that respects the dignity, integrity and individual needs of all and to develop an understanding and pride in the diversity that is our school's and this country's heritage. In so doing, to ensure that this is a place of truth, honour and kindness where the values of the gospel are seen in all that is attempted and achieved, and where the love of God touches all who come into contact with the school.

Achievement

To provide all pupils with the means and opportunity to identify and develop their potential intellectually, physically, spiritually and socially, through a balance of self discovery and excellent teaching.

Community

To value the diversity of people's backgrounds and faiths in our global community and to promote equality of opportunity for all. In so doing, to work with partners, other schools and local businesses to develop life-long learning opportunities and to establish the school in the wider community.

Curriculum Policy

Principles

Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School provides a Catholic education in conformity with the teaching of the Catholic Church. The school's curriculum, flowing from the school's mission statement, aims to help pupils to experience a personal and loving God and to make a positive response to this love, thereby nourishing their faith and assisting them to be aware of a spiritual dimension of life.

We recognise that every person is created in God's image and we value every individual as an equal and with unconditional acceptance. We strive to create an atmosphere where each person is inspired, encouraged and supported to the highest levels of educational achievement.

Our school aims to ensure that all are able to realise their potential, take their responsibilities seriously, respect themselves and others, and grow in the love of God. We aim to serve each other, the Church, parents and the wider community.

Religious Education is taught by subject specialists and includes approved qualifications for all pupils.

Our objectives are that pupils who leave Cardinal Heenan should:

- be articulate, literate and numerate
- have lively, enquiring, independent minds
- have developed a love of learning that will last for the rest of their lives
- be adaptable enough to react to the needs of a fast changing world
- be confident in their dealings with people
- be able to develop good working relationships with others
- be aware of how faith guides their decision making
- be aware of the needs of the community and be prepared to contribute fully to the life of the community and of the Catholic Church
- have knowledge of a wide range of cultures and through this come to respect the rights and needs of others
- be able to make good moral judgements
- have well developed skills to show empathy for others

The Curriculum

We aim to make learning an exciting and interesting experience for all our pupils. We help pupils become aware of their abilities and, in so doing, encourage them to develop to their maximum potential.

Our pupils' strong academic performance is built upon:

- intellectually challenging teaching
- a work-centred environment
- high standards consistently applied in the classroom
- clear rules governing behaviour
- homework for all pupils set regularly
- marking of pupils' work promptly and constructively by teachers

- regular formal examination practice
- frequent monitoring of progress
- defined academic goals
- strong partnership with parents

At Cardinal Heenan we offer a stimulating and varied curriculum designed to be broad and balanced in line with statutory requirements and to provide opportunities for personalised, individual learning programmes.

Promoting British Values

At the heart of our curriculum in this Catholic Christian school is the promotion of British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Our curriculum develops skills and attitudes that will allow pupils to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

Curriculum Structure

All pupils have five lessons per day in a cycle of 50 lessons over 10 school days. The cycle is repeated each fortnight.

Most Cardinal Heenan pupils study a language throughout their time here. Many study two languages (French and Spanish).

Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8)

Pupils in Years 7 and 8 engage in an accelerated programme of learning which enables them to complete all subjects of the Key Stage 3 studies by the end of Year 8. Key Stage 4 courses begin in Year 9.

The subjects studied are: Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, Technology, History, Geography, Spanish, Computing, Art, Music, Physical Education and Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic Education (PSHCE), including Careers Information, Advice and Guidance.

Key Stage 4 (Years 9, 10 and 11)

At Key Stage 4 each student's learning programme is tailored to individual needs and aptitudes. Our pupils choose from alternative combinations of courses which meet individual pupils' needs and provide routes into Post 16 study for all.

Most Cardinal Heenan pupils follow a pathway that leads to The English Baccalaureate (GCSE awards in English, Mathematics, two or three Science subjects, a language and either Geography or History).

Most pupils take 10 GCSE subjects. Vocational qualifications include the Cambridge National Certificate in Information Technology. A small number of pupils whose needs are suited to a work related curriculum take Key Stage 4 vocational courses at local colleges and frequent work experience placements, whilst studying the core curriculum here at Cardinal Heenan.

At Key Stage 4 all pupils study the core subjects of Religious Education, English, English Literature, Mathematics, Science, Languages and Physical Education in addition to a choice of option subjects.

Some 60 pupils (The most able) are encouraged to take Biology, Chemistry and Physics as three separate GCSE's. A majority of pupils study for two Science subjects: Core Science and Additional Science.

All Key Stage 4 pupils follow a programme of Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic Education (PSHCE) including Careers Information, Advice and Guidance

Most pupils take 10 GCSE subjects. Approved vocational qualifications are also offered in school. A small number of pupils whose needs are suited to a work-related curriculum take Key Stage 4 vocational courses at local colleges and frequent work experience placements, whilst studying the core curriculum here at Cardinal Heenan.

Public Examination Entries

The school prepares and enters all pupils for public examinations at Key Stage 4 according to their progress and abilities. Most of the subjects studied lead to the GCSE. Fees for all approved examination entries are paid by the school.

Examination subjects for which pupils will commonly be entered:

GCSE: English; Mathematics; Biology; Chemistry; Physics; Combined Science; Art; Business; Computing; Design Technology; English Literature; French; Food and Nutrition, Geography; History; Music; Physical Education; Religious Studies; Spanish.

Cambridge National Certificate: ICT

Information for Parents

Detailed information about the school curriculum including descriptions of the programme of learning in each school subject by year group are published on the curriculum pages of the school website: <http://www.cardinalheenan.leeds.sch.uk/the-curriculum>

Information meetings for parents on the school curriculum are held each year. These include meetings on the options process in Year 8, an introduction to Key stage 4 course for parents in Year 9; and guidance to parents on helping their sons and daughters with revision in Year 11.

Parental enquires about the school curriculum are always welcome and should be addressed to Vincent Gibbons, Deputy Headteacher (887 3247).