

## Curriculum Rationale Statement

The aim at the Priory Catholic Voluntary Academy is to provide opportunities for pupils to develop as confident, successful learners with high aspirations, who know how to make a positive contribution to their community and the wider society. As a thriving Catholic Academy, our Catholic aims and values lie at the heart of our curriculum. As Jesus taught, through His actions and words, everyone has the right to be treated equally –with dignity and respect. All who work and learn here do so in the knowledge that God created us uniquely, where our differences; whether of: disability, gender, gender reassignment, pregnancy, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation and age, are celebrated as part of the wonderfully created world in which we live.

As God created the wonderful world in which we live, as humans we have learned to compartmentalise our experience of the Divine (and His day to day revelation) into specific subject areas from which we make sense of the world. As a Catholic School, it is therefore imperative that every subject area is taught with the highest regard in order to fully enrich and enliven the lives of our pupils. In doing so, it is the aim of teachers to deliver a curriculum that enables every child to grow academically, socially, morally, spiritually and physically in the knowledge that they are loved by God and are safe and valued within our school community.

Our school excels in art, singing, music and drama by providing quality opportunities for all pupils throughout school to share their creative talents, especially when taking part in school productions at the end of each term. In addition, the school provides the full core offer of extended school provision, as it promotes physical health and well-being as a wide variety of clubs take place before and after school hours which include: Ecology Club, Art, Story-time, Gymnastics, Irish Dancing, Multi-sports, as well as personalised learning and play. As part of this offer –and within the curriculum –sport has a very high profile at the school as pupils are introduced to a range of activities. Making sport a major focus has helped to engage all pupils throughout school. It has also increased confidence in pupils and has been used to teach life skills such as team work, determination, perseverance and acceptance of losing.

At the Priory Catholic Voluntary Academy, the school provides an inclusive, nurturing environment where pupils enjoy learning. Pupils at all levels are challenged to achieve their full potential; being encouraged to expand their skills and knowledge through varied curriculum opportunities. Challenge is exacted for those who find learning more difficult as they are provided with targeted support to embed skills in order to support them to develop at their own pace, and to learn in a style that best suits their needs.

Subject leaders play an important part in the success of the curriculum by leading a regular programme of monitoring, evaluation and review. These results are collated by the curriculum coordinator and presented to the governing body each academic year. The results of this process are fed back into the curriculum design to ensure quality curriculum coverage is achieved and accessed by all pupils. The needs of all pupils are met within the environment of high, quality-first teaching –supported by targeted, proven interventions where appropriate. In this way, it can be seen to consistently impact, in a very positive way, on pupil outcomes across the curriculum. Enjoyment of the curriculum promotes achievement, confidence and good learning behaviour. Pupils feel safe and are confident to try new things in a loving and caring fail-safe environment.

## **Curriculum Intent Statement**

At The Priory Catholic Voluntary Academy, we offer a broad-based curriculum which promotes the academic, moral, physical, social and spiritual development of our pupils and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences for their next stages of learning and development.

The focus on curriculum development is always carefully designed to ensure coverage and progression. At the Priory Catholic Academy, the school provides pupils with memorable experiences; which include diverse and rich opportunities from which children can learn and develop a range of transferable skills. The primary focus of our curriculum is to raise aspirations, engender a sense of personal pride in achievement, provide a purpose and relevance for learning; and, ultimately to help every pupil achieve through their strengths and interests. This approach encourages greater learner engagement through enjoyment and critical thinking –developing enquiry and reasoning skills.

To achieve this, the school plans a broad and balanced curriculum in accordance with the National Curriculum which includes teachers using their professional judgement to shape the curriculum around the needs of our pupils –from teaching discrete subject content on the one hand, to creating topic webs on the other –so as to order and interweave subject matter in such a way that enhances pupils’ long-term memory and learning.

Joining areas of the curriculum in this way is a strong framework through which the connections between subjects are clearly planned for. Themed topics for each year group cover the foundation subjects: History, Geography, D&T, Art, Music and the Core Subject of Science. This approach provides opportunities for pupils to ‘get under the skin’ of the skills and deepen their knowledge and understanding –enabling them to grow as equally in their personal health and well-being; so that they are equipped and confident to embrace the world in which we live.