



CURRICULUM POLICY

St Richard's is committed to providing a broad and balanced, full-time supervised education for pupils of compulsory school age, which will challenge and engage pupils and provide them with a secure foundation on which to continue into senior school and beyond. Provision is carefully planned to meet the requirements of the National Curriculum with experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education and to provide continuity and progression in all areas whilst taking account of individual needs and differences to ensure accessibility for pupils of all abilities.

The curriculum is developed to provide pupils with the opportunity to achieve intellectually, emotionally, socially, physically, morally and creatively, so that they may become independent, responsible, confident and considerate members of the community. Lessons are delivered to allow pupils to acquire and develop skills in speaking and listening, literacy and numeracy both through the formal and informal curriculum and cross-curricular planning produces continuity and flow across the core curriculum subjects, which in turn are supported by a broad range of extra-curricular subjects and activities. All lesson planning and delivery includes differentiation in recognition that individual pupils have differing educational needs, strengths and weaknesses, to ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to learn and make progress. Certain classes may be streamed in Year 8 to ensure that subjects can be taught at a level and pace which is appropriate to the pupils' ability and development.

The curriculum is closely monitored, and regularly revisited, by subject leaders, the Senior Leadership Team and the Governors, who aim to keep it up to date with the needs of the modern world, and to ensure continuity and progression from one year group to the next. This includes ensuring continuity from Pre-Prep to main school.

Children in the Nursery and the Reception Class follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and pupils from Years 1 – 8 follow the National Curriculum. The school prepares pupils for Scholarship, Common Entrance and School Entrance examinations to senior schools in Year 8.

The school has a Special Educational Needs department which is responsible for the provision of assessment, tuition and support for pupils with Special Educational Needs. This department works in close liaison with pupils, parents, members of staff and, if necessary, outside agencies, to ensure that all pupils have access to a broad based and progressive education.

All pupils are expected to take part in collective worship, which is Roman Catholic in nature, and involves whole school masses throughout the year. Religious Instruction is taught to all year groups and includes study of a broad range of religious and cultural beliefs.

The school provides sex education in the basic curriculum for all pupils, in which pupils are encouraged and guided by moral principles and taught to recognise the value of family life. The school has a separate Sex Education Policy which takes into account the Government's guidance as contained in Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (0116/2000).

PHSE is delivered to all year groups either through timetabled periods, tutor periods or assemblies, and includes lessons on health, hygiene and personal welfare and safety. Basic sex education principally falls within the remit of the Science Department, however sex education may be included within PHSE lessons where relevant and appropriate, such teaching will always take account of the age, cultural background and levels of maturity and development of the pupils involved and parents may be consulted prior to delivery of the session. Year 8 follows a 'Leavers' Programme' at the end of the summer term, which includes detailed PHSE provision such as lectures on drugs and alcohol abuse and awareness (West Mercia Police), first aid (Herefordshire Ambulance Service), bushcraft/survival skills and preparation for life at senior school.

Pupils from Year 2 to Year 8 study French and Latin is introduced in Year 3. Every pupil, regardless of age, is required to participate in Games/PE lessons and activities, which form part of the weekly timetable.

Pupils in all years enjoy wide-ranging and diverse opportunities to explore local and national culture, history, geography and the arts with a programme of visits to theatres, art galleries, literary and music festivals, museums, towns, factories, farms and activity centres. In addition, guest lecturers are invited to the school to speak to pupils including well-known children's authors, sculptors and musicians.

Games sessions are timetabled for all year groups. Pupils in Years 3 to 8 have games periods four days per week with match fixtures on Wednesdays and Saturdays afternoons. Pupils in the Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2 classes have PE sessions once per week and in addition Years 1 and 2 have swimming once per fortnight.

ICT is taught to all year groups: at Early Years Foundation Stage in the classroom, whilst Years 1 to 8 are timetabled to take lessons in the Computer Suite. In addition to formal IT provision, the use of IT is encouraged and nurtured across the curriculum as a whole, and forms a part of the children's work in all subjects.

In addition to the individual music tuition which is available on a wide range of instruments to all pupils in Years 3 to 8, class music lessons are scheduled once per week for all year groups. There are many opportunities for performance throughout the year including formal and informal school concerts, choir performances in local churches and individual and group performances at festivals. Music lessons are supported by music theory tuition which is offered as an extra-curricular activity.

The school has a policy and procedures in place to support any pupil for whom English is an additional language and through its mentoring scheme ensures that all pupils are able to access the curriculum in full.

Homework is set for Years 3 – 8, whilst home-based reading and spelling revision are expected of pupils in Years Reception to 2 and a weekly project is set each Friday for pupils in Year 2. Homework is appropriate to pupils' development, level and ability.

Parents are encouraged to contribute to and support the Curriculum Policy either through individual contact with the Headmaster, the Heads of Department, form tutors or subject teachers and/or the Form Representatives, who meet with the Headmaster twice per term.

September 2010