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"The glory of God is  
a human being fully  
alive!"

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# St Joseph's Catholic High School

## Curriculum Policy 2025-27

# Unlocking Belief in All

Curriculum policy 2025-26



St Joseph's aims to **Unlock Belief in All**. We aim for students to do this through living out our school Profile of: Learned and Wise, **Loving and Compassionate**, **Truthful and eloquent**, **Intentional and prophetic**, **attentive and discerning**, **faith-filled and hopeful**, **curious and active**, **grateful and generous**. Our aim, within this context, is that all members of our community show Christ through the presence of each other.

Our school is built upon high expectations, great relationships and our three core values to learning of Attributes, Skills and Knowledge:



Curriculum Intent	What it means	Where it fits with scripture
Attributes	Enriching students with gospel values and virtues. Equipping them with the attributes to change society for the better.	Mark 11:24 Whatever you ASK in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.
Skills	Developing cognitive fluency to enable Knowledge to be applied, analyzed and evaluated effectively	Matthew 7:7 -ASK, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:
Knowledge	Academic Fluency; curriculum coherence is achieved through deep learning; utilizing Rosenshine's principles to ensure Knowledge will be taught to be remembered effectively	James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ASK God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given to him.

St Joseph's delivers a broad, balanced and inclusive curriculum that is ambitious for all our students. We want our students to:

- Unlock their Belief in God, their Faith and their own potential to build the Kingdom of God from Slough
- Have a love of learning where seeking to achieve and learn more never stops to exceed their academic potential
- Have a wide range of experiences both in and out of the classroom
- Grow into happy, confident, resilient and articulate young people
- Raises students' aspirations so they believe and go on to the best universities, apprenticeships and work places and flourish in their future careers.
- Provides students with opportunities to take the curriculum beyond the classroom to develop independence, creativity and a love of learning.

In order to achieve this, St Joseph's uses the following Teaching and Learning and Assessment Policy in order for students to achieve this:

# Key Stage 3 (Year 7-9)

The curriculum throughout KS3 is in line with the National Curriculum for all students.

We operate a two-week timetable consisting of fifty, 60 minute lessons. In addition to this, all students will undertake 35 minutes of reading per day. The balance of curriculum time for 2025-26 is outlined below with the number of lessons taught to each year group

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
R.E	5	5	5
English	6	6	6
Reading	5.4	5.4	5.4
Maths	6	6	6
Science	6	6	6
Computing	2	2	2
Geography	3	3	3
History	3	3	3
MFL	4	4	4
Art	2	2	2
Drama	2	2	2
Music	2	2	2
P.E	4	4	4
DT/Food	2	2	2
PSHE	1	1	1
Elective programme	2	2	2

We offer French and Spanish as Modern Foreign Languages - all students are assigned to one language on entry to the school and then continue to study this throughout KS3. They then have the option to choose whether to continue with that language to GCSE.

Academic reports for KS3 students are sent home to parents three times a year. The timings of these reports vary for each year group, but are broadly once per term.

If you have any questions or require further information about our curriculum, please contact the Head of Year for the respective year group or

## Key Stage 4 (Year 10-11)

All students follow courses in the following throughout Year 10 and 11: Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education and PSHE. Students also study either History or Geography and as well as two 'Options' from the subjects listed below. In addition to this, all students will undertake 35 minutes of reading per day.

	Year 10	Year 11
R.E	5	5
English (Lit and Lang)	8	8
Reading	2.55	2.55
Maths	7	7
Science	9	9
PSHE	1	1
Geography/History	5	5
Option 1	5	5
Option 2	5	5
P.E	3	3
Elective programme	2	2

A very small proportion of our cohort are invited to undertake our "Pathway 2 Offer" which enables them to focus on fewer examination subjects. This is very much a bespoke offer that changes annually to best meet the needs of the individuals and their learning needs. For

example; where a GCSE in Geography or History is not appropriate, we offer additional Maths and English; or where there is risk of a child not achieving GCSE pass in English Literature and/or Language we may enter them for Functional Skills English Level 1/2 in Year 10 and/or Year 11. The offer is always bespoke to the individual so as to ensure that we keep the curriculum as broad as possible for as long as possible whilst simultaneously meeting their needs and ensuring that every child flourishes and leaves St Joseph's equipped for their next steps.

The 'Options' subjects available currently are as below:

### **GCSE qualifications**

- Art
- Business Studies
- Computing Science
- Design and Technology with Resistant Materials
- Drama
- Food Preparation & Nutrition
- Geography
- History
- MFL (French and Spanish)
- Music
- Physical Education

### **BTEC qualifications**

- Level 1/2 BTEC Child Development
- Level 1/2 BTEC Creative iMedia Production
- Level 1/2 BTEC Enterprise and Marketing
- Level 1/2 BTEC Sports Science

Please note options subjects are revised annually and are subject to change. If you have any questions or require further information about our curriculum, please contact your child's Head of Year who will be happy to help

# Key Stage 5 (Year 12-13)

At Key stage 5 students generally study 3 A Levels culminating in exams after 2 years. Some students follow a combination of BTEC and A Level Courses. The following subjects are currently available: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Media, Economics, Psychology, Geography, History, Law, Product Design, Sociology, Business Studies, Maths, Philosophy and Ethics, English Literature, English Language, French, Spanish, Computing, Art, Core Maths and BTEC in the following; Sport, Music, Travel and Tourism, Health and Social Care, Performing Arts. Each option chosen is given eight 1 hour lessons per fortnight.

Extended Project Qualification Recommended by leading employers and universities we are privileged to offer The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) to all of our sixth form students. It is an 18 month (Level 3) study programme that provides an opportunity for you to pursue your own academic interests in a chosen topic. You will undertake independent research, gaining additional (up to) 24 UCAS points for your university applications and developing a range of independent research skills.

For further information on the Key Stage 5 curriculum please refer to the Sixth Form Prospectus.

## PSHE

At every Key Stage pupils will embark upon a PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) Programme relevant to their year group. The PSHE Curriculum ensures students are given the skills, attributes and knowledge to keep themselves safe and healthy in an increasingly complex world. It entails covering topics that are relevant and appropriate for their age ranging from; healthy eating, building relationships, careers advice and effective studying habits.

## Electives Programme

At St Joseph's Catholic High School we recognize the value of education beyond the confines of the traditional classroom environment. As such, we have sought to develop learning opportunities for our students that enrich and enhance their studies, but also allow them to discover and develop new ideas and talents. Our new Electives Programme gives students the opportunity to take part in up to 6 different enrichment opportunities every school year; each one with a clear vision and aim in developing key skills and attributes of value. Such electives that we are running include; Golf, Crochet, Global Ventures, First Aid, Turkish, Cookery and Badminton.

# IMPLEMENTATION

The curriculum takes into account the individual needs of students giving them a breadth of academic and personal development opportunities.

The curriculum places an emphasis on deep learning, utilizing Rosenshine's principles to ensure knowledge will be taught to be remembered and Blooms Taxonomy, to ensure what is learned can be applied, evaluated and analysed effectively.

Schema is sequenced coherently throughout the Key Stages, curriculum maps are referenced daily to ensure students understand the learning journey.

Students will be set aspirational targets, the effective implementation of the curriculum will allow them to meet or exceed them.

Enrichment within the Electives programme and outside of lessons, through clubs, societies, the church and extra-curricular trips allows students to test and apply knowledge in wider contexts.

The effectiveness of implementation is constantly evaluated through the school quality assurance cycle. This review process informs staff development opportunities. Implementation is responsive: where assessment indicates that progress is inconsistent, targeted intervention and support or additional challenge will be put into place to ensure students meet them. Further information on the implementation of each subject's curriculum can be found under 'Curriculum' on the school website