



BEECHWOOD

Sacred Heart School

CURRICULUM POLICY

It is intended that all pupils at Beechwood Sacred Heart School will be taught according to a curriculum that is broad, balanced, coherent and relevant. A broad curriculum will expose pupils to different elements of learning (knowledge, concepts, skills, attitudes), as well as different areas of learning experience (creative, human, linguistic, literary, mathematical, moral, physical, scientific, social, spiritual, technological).

A balanced curriculum should ensure that all areas of learning experience are given appropriate time and attention in relation to other areas and to the curriculum as a whole. The curriculum will be planned as a coherent whole to reflect the belief that all areas of learning contribute to the pupils' overall progress and achievement. It will be consistent within itself and with the rationale that leads to its development.

The curriculum will acknowledge, consider and be appropriate to the age and previous learning experience of the pupils at all stages of their development. The delivery of the curriculum will recognise the differences between pupils and will endeavour to balance challenge with likelihood of success. This implies a need for variation and differentiation in teaching approaches and classroom organisation.

The curriculum and the way in which it is delivered should enable the development of knowledge, understanding and personal values that will enhance and enrich the life of every pupil. It should prepare each individual pupil as fully as possible for life after leaving school.

It is our intention that the curriculum for all ages will be enhanced and enriched by a full programme of extra-curricular activities. It will also be enriched by the regular use of themes in the Preparatory School and by dedicated theme weeks for Junior Division in the Senior School, to encourage cross-curricular links and foster independent learning.

The school will review the curriculum at appropriate time intervals to ensure its continuing relevance and communicate any planned changes to parents and pupils with reasonable notice. The school curriculum and its effectiveness will also be reviewed and approved on an annual basis by the Governors' Academic Sub-Committee.

The school day for lessons starts at 9.00 am and consists of six 50-minute lessons, ending at 4.00 pm (Pupils in the Nursery and Years R - 2 finish at 3.35 pm, and in Years 3 – 6 at 3.45 pm). The school has lessons on Monday to Friday only. Each week therefore has 30 lessons, totalling 25 hr (22 hr 55 min in Foundation and Key Stage 1; 23h 45 min in Key Stage 2). The School year has a minimum of 34 weeks. The Senior School operates a two-week timetable.