

Introduction

The curriculum policy at Mary Immaculate ensures that all statutory elements are adhered to and promotes our mission and purpose as a school.

Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8)

In Years 7 and 8 pupils follow the Curriculum for Wales which aims to help every child and young person in Wales develop towards the four key purposes:

- Ambitious, capable learners who are ready to learn throughout their lives.
- Enterprising, creative contributors who are ready to play a full part in life and work.
- Ethical, informed citizens who are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world.
- Healthy, confident individuals who are ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society

At Mary Immaculate High School the curriculum that has been designed is bespoke to both our Catholic ethos and the unique context of our learners. As a Catholic community every student is expected to follow a core curriculum which includes Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, ICT and Welsh. In addition, all pupils follow a full range of subjects which meet the requirements of the National Curriculum. These include Art, Technology, Geography, History, A Modern Foreign Language (French), Music, Drama, Physical Education and Personal Social Education. Apart from Welsh and Modern Languages all subjects are taught in the medium of English. However, every opportunity is made to make use of incidental Welsh in all subject areas to promote our bilingual status.

Key Stage 4 (Years 9, 10 and 11)

At Key Stage 4 all pupils follow courses in Religious Education, English Language, Mathematics Numeracy, Mathematics, double Science, Welsh and the Welsh Baccalaureate. These are all examined through nationally recognised public examinations.

Many pupils are also prepared for English Literature within their English programme. Also, all pupils must follow a programme in Physical Education and Personal and Social Education which includes Units in Study Skills.

In addition to the core subjects pupils choose (currently from three option pools):

Art, ASDAN, Built environment, Business, Design Technology: Product Design, French, Drama, Geography, Food and Nutrition, Media Studies, Health and Social Care, Music, ICT, PE, Sport Studies, and additional Vocational/training courses.

All pupils are currently prepared for entry to public examination in eight or nine subjects. Most core subject classes are organised in ability, the majority of option subjects are not.

At Key Stage 4 the non-core subjects (options) are dependent on need and are subject to change.

At Key Stage 4 the school is also planning its curriculum to take into account changes in 2025. Additionally, we have included Enrichment options within our curriculum at KS4 to broaden the offer for pupils and these range from Podcasting, Gardening, Textiles, Alternative Sports, First Aid and Confectionary.

Class Organisation

Classes in Year 7 are based upon information from the Primary Schools, including end of Key Stage 2 attainments. As pupils' progress through the school, internal assessments are made and movement between groups will occur. Pupils are set according to ability in Mathematics, English and Science as they move through the school. In KS4 all compulsory subjects are grouped according to ability, non-core or option courses are mixed ability.

Policy Approved: October 2013

Policy Review Date: November 2020

Reviewed: November 2022