



Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust

# Curriculum Statement



**FORMING LIVES READY TO FACE THE FUTURE**

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## Introduction

Within all Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust in study in faith and in our all-embracing philosophy, based on the teaching and values of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves as a Catholic Community to the development of the whole person and the pursuit of excellence by:

Nurturing and developing the Catholic faith within our community with a love of God and neighbour and through a belief that all are unique and equal in the eyes of God.

Having expectations of the highest possible standards in all things for all pupils, resulting in the highest possible academic success and personal achievement

Ensuring high standards of behaviour through a culture of respect for oneself, for the school and for others, embracing the fact that we are all members of a wider multi-cultural and multi-faith community, whilst holding a strong sense of pride and belonging for our own school community

Fostering a love and joy of learning and healthy living, to produce happy, healthy, successful and responsible global citizens of the future.

# Curriculum Intent

At Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust, our core values of Nurturing, Perseverance, Courage, Ambition, Tolerance and Respect are at the heart of everything we do. We set high expectations to ensure that every pupil excels across all aspects of school life.

Our intention is to ensure pupils make outstanding progress and that the curriculum removes any potential barriers to learning.

We want our pupils to leave with knowledge and skills which will not only create excellent life opportunities but will also prepare them exceptionally well for life beyond our schools. .



## At Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust, we are committed to

- Offering a broad, balanced, relevant and appropriate choice of subjects for each individual's needs, including SEND and disadvantaged pupils
- Promoting a love of learning across the curriculum in a wide range of discrete subject areas
- Securing high achievement in literacy and numeracy
- Providing stretch and challenge for all
- Equipping pupils for their role as citizens
- Encouraging pupils to develop lively, enquiring minds
- Developing problem solving and thinking skills across the curriculum
- Providing opportunities for students to question, analyse, evaluate and synthesise
- Developing an awareness of spiritual, social, moral and multi-cultural understanding
- Encourage habits of independent learning to

- become resilient learners
- Supporting learning needs of SEND students
- Encouraging out of class learning to enrich all pupils' education and develop leadership skills
- Providing opportunities to prepare pupils for KS4 and beyond
- Providing high quality careers education so pupils are prepared for their next stage of learning
- Encouraging pupils to engage with an enhanced curriculum to stretch and challenge our more and most able learners

### Pupils experience a broad, deep and knowledge rich curriculum

Our secondary curriculum helps pupils to achieve high standards and make excellent progress. At KS3, the curriculum is broad and pupils learn essential knowledge to ensure they have a rich in-depth understanding across a range of subjects. There are a wealth of

opportunities built into lessons to secure the need to recall and retrieve previous learning so that knowledge is fully embedded.

We offer a rich and varied Key Stage 3 to ensure pupils have a clear idea of subjects they like the most and the least by the middle of Year 9 and offering a wide range of choices at this stage for their Key Stage 4 study pathway. This diversity of exposure at Key Stage 3 is aimed to enable all pupils to take ownership of their learning and leads to improved outcomes. These courses are not externally examined; they aim to develop a mastery of the skills required to complete a subject in Key Stage 4. At KS4, the courses are carefully planned to ensure that content is thoroughly revisited and this undoubtedly prepares pupils for external examinations at the end of the course.

### Pupils will be literate and numerate

The development of pupil language and oracy is at the forefront of our curriculum as we understand how vital it is for our pupils to build confidence in

communication skills not only for their time in school but also to prepare them for working life. We ensure pupils have opportunities in all subjects to discuss, challenge and build on other points of view and to develop their formality of language to ensure they can have the confidence to speak to different audiences. Numeracy skills are embedded across the curriculum. Pupils who arrive with below expected maths skills are quickly caught up through expert teaching and incisive intervention. We ensure pupils are literate and numerate enabling them to flourish, thrive and access the next stage of their education, employment or training.

### Pupils will have high expectations for their behaviour and achievement

NPCAT schools are inclusive and ambitious for all. We have high expectations of all pupils and provide opportunity for pupils to learn what is expected of them morally. Our overarching Trust Code of Conduct ensures that pupils learn that actions have consequences and they can accept and appreciate differences between people. Whilst pupils

gain knowledge through KS3, KS4 and KS5, we also want them to become learners who are enquiring, enthusiastic, engaged and mannerly. Pupils will develop high expectations of themselves and embed our key principles across the Trust.

### Pupils will build their character

Within NPCAT, we are totally committed to improving the life chances and aspirations of pupils. With a focus on building character and resilience, we ensure pupils have access to a wider curriculum which provides numerous opportunities in sport, creativity, performing, world of work, volunteering and membership. An extensive enrichment programme supports the development of pupils into well rounded citizens.

### Pupils will develop their cultural, moral, social, mental and physical development

At Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust, we pride ourselves on delivering a curriculum which has Catholic Faith at the centre SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and

Cultural). SMSC is championed within the Trust in order to develop pupils as a whole, not just academically, to ensure that they are fully prepared for life in modern Britain, pupils are able to envision 'The Bigger Picture' and show that learning is linked to the real world and experiences. Pupils are encouraged to take part in a range of sporting, cultural and charitable activities. Links with local and national business enrich the curriculum offer and help to contextualise learning.

### Pupils will secure foundations for progression

It is our intention at NPCAT to ensure pupils have secure foundations for progression into further education and apprenticeships. From Year 7, pupils receive careers information with a clear focus on the Gatsby benchmarks and this is supported through a comprehensive PSHE programme. Over the course of 5 years, pupils receive a rigorous and bespoke careers program that exposes our pupils to a huge range of voices and experiences.

# Curriculum Implementation

The Trust believes that a carefully planned and structured curriculum is the foundation upon which excellent learning and development is built.

The curriculum is designed and implemented in such a way that it builds on prior knowledge and prepares pupils for the next stage in their education. This is complimented by the Trust's teaching and learning philosophy which ensures recall and interleaved learning is at the heart of what we do.

Development of language and building knowledge are integral to curriculum planning. Trust Curriculum Directors, who are experts in their subjects, carefully construct a curriculum that promotes a deep understanding of a wide range of topics. Teachers plan learning that allows pupils to embed and recall knowledge through techniques such as interleaving of topics and spaced practice. This builds firm foundations for progression to the next level and exam success.

## KS3

At KS3 the curriculum is designed around core knowledge. This encourages pupils to focus on deeper learning to ensure real understanding of the key concepts. Each key topic has a planned core knowledge organiser with clear statements setting out what pupils need to know and remember to reach their aspirational target grade. The National Curriculum content is carefully tracked to ensure that pupils have covered all areas and revisit core content over KS3.

## Year 9

In Year 9, pupils choose subjects to study in depth in Year 10 & 11. This enables pupils to really enjoy their subject and learn the depth of their subject over a two year KS4 course. The curriculum model allows pupils to choose subjects in addition to the core Maths, English, Science, PE and Religious Studies.

## KS4

Options are structured in such a way to allow pupils a choice in the subjects they enjoy and which are suited to their career aspirations. This ensures equity of delivery, with all pupils having equal access to subjects. The options are designed to stretch and challenge pupils and to meet the demands of the local labour market. Pupils are offered a mixture of practical and academic subjects from all areas of the curriculum. Within the option subjects, the school offers a range of different accreditation routes including academic and vocational options. This gives every pupil a broad and balanced curriculum, but still offers a flexibility to maximise the outcomes achieved by each individual. This model also maintains the widest possible choice for progression routes Post 16 as every pupil will have a greater range of subjects on which to choose future opportunities for education and training.



# Curriculum Impact

At Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust, our curriculum will:

- ensure that the sequence of learning builds on previous knowledge whilst supporting future progression.
- lead to qualifications that are of worth for employers and for entry to further and higher education. enable all pupils to fulfil their potential.
- meet the needs of pupils of all abilities within the Trust.
- allow pupils to acquire an appreciation and respect for their own and other cultures. prepare pupils to compete in the global economy.
- prepare pupils to make informed choices at the end of KS3, KS4 and beyond.
- help students develop lively, enquiring minds and the ability to question and argue rationally

## Curriculum Hours

Subject	Periods per Week – Year 7	Periods per Week – Year 8	Periods per Week – Year 9
English	8	8	9
Maths	7	8	7
Science	8	7	7
Art	2	2	2
Computing	2	2	2
Drama	1	1	1
DT	2	2	2
French	3	3	3
Geography	3	3	3
History	3	3	3
Music	1	1	1
PE	4	4	4
RS	5	5	5
PSHE	1	1	1

At KS4 core subjects are set by ability

Option groups are largely mixed ability with some setting if there is more than one group in an option block.

All lessons are 1 hour in length and there are 25 lessons per week.

Subject	Periods per Week – Year 10	Periods per Week – Year 11
English	9	9
Maths	9	9
Science	9	9
Religious Studies	5	5
Option Subjects	5	5
PE	2	2
PSHE	1	1

# Assessment

All pupils will be set a minimum target grade that we expect them to achieve based on their KS2 SATs..

The Trust has introduced core knowledge organisers at KS3 across all subjects. As a result, pupils are engaged in their learning and know how the curriculum is sequenced and what core knowledge and vocabulary they need to know and remember.

Regular, low stakes testing ensures that pupils embed knowledge into their long term memory. Pupils are assessed by a combination of peer, self and teacher assessments. Summative assessment will take place at least once per half term.

Following each assessment, incisive intervention to fill gaps in knowledge means that pupils make rapid progress.

## Curriculum Review

Curriculum implementation will be reviewed and quality assured through line management, lesson visits, lesson observations and collaboration of staff feedback

The curriculum delivered in each subject will reviewed annually by Trust Curriculum Directors to ensure the sequence of delivery allows pupils to build on their knowledge and that pupils are sufficiently stretched and challenged.

The curriculum hours and subjects offered will be analysed by Trust Curriculum Directors Headteachers on an annual basis.

The Trust Curriculum Directors will discuss curriculum content and delivery annually. This will be fed back to Secondary School's senior team and staff.

Parents and pupils will have the opportunity to review the curriculum content and delivery through parent and pupil surveys.



*Forming lives ready to face the future*

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