



Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust

NPCAT Curriculum Statement

FORMING LIVES READY TO FACE THE FUTURE

Curriculum Intent

At Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust (NPCAT), 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 subject areas
- Securing high achievement in literacy and numeracy
- Providing stretch and challenge for all
- Safe schools whereby fundamental British Values and citizenship are promoted
- Equipping pupils for their role as responsible citizens
- Encouraging pupils to develop lively, enquiring minds
- Developing problem solving and thinking skills across the curriculum
- Providing opportunities for pupils 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 pupils
- Encouraging out of class learning to enrich all pupils' education and develop leadership skills
- Providing opportunities to prepare pupils for their next stage of learning
- 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 primary and secondary curriculum helps pupils to achieve high standards and make excellent progress.

In our primary schools we are committed to meeting the requirements of the primary National Curriculum. The work set reflects the content and challenge of the curriculum. Excellent collaboration between primary settings determines a progressive curriculum across all phases. The curriculum is taught with the consideration of the needs of all learners. Each primary school offers an exciting, engaging and transparent curriculum considering the demographics of the setting which will inspire children to foster a life long passion for learning.

In our secondary schools 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 each Key Stage we also want them to become learners who are enquiring, enthusiastic, engaged and have exemplary manners. We are particularly proud of the respect and care that our children show for one another, the environment and the community around them. At NPCAT, 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.

In our primary schools we build on the knowledge, understanding and skills of all children, whatever their starting points. As they progress through each Key Stage, the aim is for pupils to have the requisite skills to be successful, independent and motivated learners in readiness for their next stage of education.

In our secondary schools 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.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

A core principle of our primary curriculum design is built on progression as outlined in the National Curriculum 2014. Our primary curriculum, reinforces prior learning and progressively increases in cognitive complexity. Children move through the primary school, revisiting and building upon concepts in greater depth. Metacognitive strategies aid retention and memory.

Some subjects like English and Maths are taught progressively on a year-by-year basis. The curriculum focuses on high quality teaching of basic skills (reading, writing, number and speaking and listening).

Early years provision provides a sensitive balance of play-based learning and adult-led interaction. Throughout Key Stage 1 and 2,

pupils will receive a broad and rich curriculum, taught primarily as discrete subjects or through combining subjects when this is appropriate.

Religious Education is the "core of the core curriculum" in a Catholic school. The children follow the 'Come and See' programme of study for RE.

A rigorous approach to the teaching of reading develops learners' confidence and understanding in reading. Reading materials are closely matched to learners' phonics knowledge. A love of early reading, for pleasure and academic excellence, is rooted in all schools. The mastery of grammar, spelling (including phonics) and vocabulary impact positively on writing development.

Through a mastery approach, lessons are carefully sequenced and pupils are taught through whole-class interactive teaching, ensuring fluency and conceptual understanding are developed in tandem and children develop a deep knowledge of the key ideas that are needed to underpin future learning.

Foundation subjects are split into key stage blocks whereby schools sequentially order content to ensure National Curriculum coverage. The National Curriculum allows schools to decide how to deliver the curriculum and how to

organise their timetables. Subjects can be taught discretely, grouped or taught through projects, if strong enough links can be made to develop pupils' understanding and skills.

Teachers personalise medium term and short term planning to the interests and needs of the pupils and individual school curriculum offers are quality assured by Primary Standards officers.

Teachers are ambitious for their learners and create an environment that allows the learner to focus on learning and promote learner independence over their learning journey. Quality Trust CPD provides enhanced teaching and learning within key phases and between primary phases.

Teachers use on-going assessment to evaluate the learning and progress of all pupils. Summative assessments are used in all subjects to assess our children's retention of new teaching to inform future planning. Purposeful data is analysed and used effectively. Each subject area is underpinned by key assessment criteria at both age-related and greater depth within all year groups.



SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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.

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.

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.

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.
- meet the needs of pupils of all abilities within the Trust.
- provide high levels of challenge, allowing schools to track progress and rigorously assess.
- help children become inquisitive learners who are motivated to excel and who have a thirst for learning.
- allow pupils to acquire an appreciation and respect for their own and other cultures.
- prepare pupils to compete in the global economy.
- prepare pupils with academic, emotional and mental flexibility and resilience who work hard to have a positive impact on their local community and world around them.
- help pupils develop lively, enquiring minds and the ability to question and argue rationally.
- deliver high quality CPD and develop well trained practitioners.
- prepare pupils to make informed choices at the end of KS3, KS4 and beyond.
- at KS4, lead to qualifications that are of worth for employers and for entry to further and higher education.
- enable all pupils to fulfil their potential.

*The Trust Standards Teams will use robust monitoring to evaluate the impact of our curriculum design.

Please refer to specific school websites for individual curriculum offers.





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