



Curriculum Policy

All members of our community are given equal opportunities in line with the Single Equality Duty.

Policy Written:

January 2006

Reviewed By Teaching, Learning and
Achievements Committee

04.06.14, 21.06.17, 26/06/2019

Adopted By Full Governing Body

26.06.17, 09/07/2019



St Thomas More R C Academy Mission Statement

St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Academy is a Catholic school, and as such we attempt to follow the example of Jesus Christ in our work, worship and relationships.

Our aims are:

- To be a community based on Christian values, notably Love, Justice, Peace, Truth and Tolerance, and to encourage individuals in their commitment to these ideals.
- To provide a secure, welcoming and ordered environment in which individuals learn to value and respect both themselves and others.
- To give individuals the opportunities to develop their full potential as human beings, and to encourage and challenge them to do so.
- To encourage everyone to strive to do their best and to strive for the highest standards in all areas of activity. To help children grow into confident, open, resourceful young people with a sense of responsibility and of service.



Curriculum Policy

A core aim of the school is to provide a curriculum that will “give individuals opportunities to develop their full potential as human beings, and to encourage and challenge them to do so”.

As a Catholic, comprehensive school:

- we will ensure that the core values of the school are explicitly promoted and that they underpin the delivery of all teaching and learning;
- we will ensure that Religious Education is a significant part of the core curriculum provided in all Key Stages;
- spiritual development opportunities will be available for all students;
- students will have access to a Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship, Education curriculum that includes Careers Education and Sex and Relationships Education;
- the curriculum will meet the statutory requirements for academies as outlined by the Department for Education;
- we will provide a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum at each Key Stage ensuring that the needs of all students are met through a range of support, curriculum enrichment and extension activities;
- we will provide a curriculum which offers continuity and progression of learning within and across Key Stages;
- students will be given the opportunity to follow a curriculum that allows for success at all levels through both academic and vocational qualifications;
- students will be grouped in a variety of ways to ensure the effective delivery of the curriculum and maximise achievement for all students;
- we will ensure that parents are provided with curriculum information relevant to their child and we will provide accurate and up to date curriculum guidance to students and parents during the option process in Years 9 and 11;
- we will promote the effective use of ICT to enhance the delivery of the curriculum;
- We will embed the development of literacy, numeracy, and employability skills throughout all subjects and ensure that subject teachers understand their responsibility for careers education;
- students will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of voluntary, extra-curricular activities, most of which take place before or after school.

THE CURRICULUM

Key Stage 3

The KS3 curriculum has been completely reviewed following the removal of national curriculum levels and the introduction of new, more demanding GCSEs. The expectation is that all students are challenged from the very beginning of Year 7.

All students start by following a common curriculum of English, Maths, RE, Science, Art, French, Geography, History, ICT, Music, Physical Education, and Technology. In Years 8 and 9, students may also study German as a foreign language. A very small number of students may follow a vocational course focussing on life skills instead of French or German, or additional support for literacy.

Key Stage 4

Our Key Stage 4 Curriculum includes a range of both academic and vocational qualifications. There are no 'pathways', and we ensure that every student can access a curriculum that is most appropriate for them.

All students study English Language, English Literature, Maths, and RE. Higher ability students are given the opportunity to follow triple award science, with the remainder following the combined double award GCSE. All students participate in a non-examined core PE course.

Students have three options choices and the majority are advised to choose a humanity, a language and one other. These are longstanding curriculum principles, which we believe will equip our students for whatever pathway they follow at post-16.

Sixth Form

Our Key Stage 3 and 4 principles continue into the Sixth Form enabling clear lines of progression. The curriculum is built around subjects that go well together with students studying three A-levels. This includes a range of facilitating & specialist subjects alongside the Extended Project. We aim to give students a sense of control over their Sixth Form programme enabling a broad education offering wide choice and essential skills for a rapidly changing world.

Portfolio of Experience

Equally important to our taught curriculum is the portfolio of experiences to enable personal and social development, develop citizenship and community work and present challenge. These include work experience at Key Stage 4 and 5, trips, a wide range of well-attended extra-curricular clubs, including D of E, fundraising events, supporting others, mentoring and representing the school. All have the aim of helping our young people to develop their identity so they are ready and equipped to fully engage with life beyond school.