

Bishop Vaughan Catholic School

Curriculum Statement

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Curriculum Statement 2021-2022

The school operates a 50-lesson fortnightly timetable. Monday to Thursday they have a twenty-minute tutorial followed by four 60 minute lessons and one 50 minute lesson per day. On a Friday we have an extended tutorial of 35 minutes which forms a PSE lesson. The remaining Friday lessons are four 55 minute and one 50-minute lesson. For all new pupils in Year 7, the school operates a 'foundation year' which acts as an appropriate transition from primary school and enables the individual assessment of abilities.

In Years 7 to 9, all pupils study the curriculum prescribed by law at Key Stage 3. Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils study French.

In each of Years 7 to 9, one of the classes is a smaller literacy focus class for those learners who need additional support with the core skills of reading, writing and spelling. This grouping allows pupils to access the curriculum with greater ease and assist them along their learning journey. In this literacy focus class, pupils are taught by a smaller number of teaching staff and supported by a dedicated team of teaching assistants in order to facilitate the progress of key literacy skills whilst still following the National Curriculum.

There are also two express classes in each year group targeted at stretching and challenging more able pupils in order to accelerate their learning and achievement.

The remainder of the year group is taught in broadly mixed ability groups, but with the narrower range of ability allowing for a more intensive focus on the development of skills.

The decision to place a pupil in a particular group is informed by both data and professional judgement. Movement between classes is fluid, reviewed on a half termly basis and can change within the year, according to the needs of the individual pupil.

Year 9 pupils are also grouped in Mathematics. At Key Stage 3, the core subjects of Mathematics, French and Science are studied for approximately 40% of the time.

In Years 10 and 11, all pupils study the curriculum prescribed by law at Key Stage 4. Core subjects are now studied for approximately 50% of the time, as most pupils study more Science.

Pupils do not currently study the WBQ Skills Challenge Certificate due to the exceptional impact on Covid on pupils' workload, but all complete the full GCSE equivalent BTEC SWEET award which is linked heavily to the WBQ challenges and the school PSE programme.