



First Educators

Parents' and Carers' Teaching and Learning Newsletter Spring 2023

Parents are described in Catholic social teaching as 'the first educators' of their children. Their role is respected and supported by Catholic schools. This newsletter is aimed at informing parents and carers about curriculum developments in the school and at supporting them in their role as the first educators of their children.

Welcome to this first edition of the Bishop Vaughan teaching and learning newsletter. We look forward to letting you know more about your child's learning experiences at school, about curriculum developments, about extra-curricular opportunities and about ways in which you can support your child's learning.

Curriculum for Wales

This newsletter is published following our first term of having implemented the new Curriculum for Wales for Year 7 pupils! The new curriculum, designed by the school in alignment with the plan set out by the Welsh Government, aims to support your child in becoming:

- an ambitious, capable learner, ready to learn throughout their life
- an enterprising, creative contributor, ready to play a full part in life and work
- an ethical, informed citizen, ready to take part in Wales and the world, and a
- a healthy, confident individual, ready to lead a fulfilling life as a valued member of society.

These are called the '**four purposes**' of the curriculum.

Learning in a way that works for your child

The new curriculum develops your child's knowledge, skills and experiences.

They will move forward as:

- they learn more
- their understanding of things gets deeper
- their communication skills grow and
- their skills improve.

There may be times when they:

- move forward quickly or
- slow down to make sure they understand a topic or because they discover something that interests them.

Learning isn't always linked to their age. It won't happen in the same way, or at the same time for everyone.

Areas of learning and experience

As well as literacy, numeracy and digital skills, there are **six areas of learning and experience**. Everything your child learns will be connected to these areas.



The curriculum also covers:

- human rights
- diversity and respecting differences
- experiences and skills for careers and the workplace
- learning about local, national and international contexts
- developmentally appropriate relationships and sexuality education.

In Years 7 to 9, your child's learning experiences will be connected to six main areas.

Importantly, at Bishop Vaughan RE is taught as a core subject and sits outside of the areas of learning and experience. However these wider subject areas seek to develop the Gospel values and themes explored in RE, authentically in subjects across the curriculum in order to support our Catholic Ethos and the formation of pupils.

The areas of learning and experience cover:

Areas of learning and experience



In **Expressive Arts**, your child will explore art, dance, drama, film and digital media and music to develop their creative, artistic and performance skills.



In **Humanities** they'll learn about the world, society and events in the past and present. They'll explore the challenges and opportunities that face us, and what ethical action we can take to safeguard the world and its people in the future.



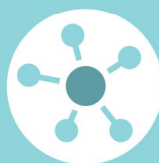
In **Mathematics and Numeracy**, your child will develop their understanding of numbers and use symbols in maths. They'll explore shapes and measurement and learn about statistics and probability.



Health and Well-being is about looking after their physical and mental health including emotional well-being. They'll learn about healthy eating and how to make good decisions, deal with influences and develop healthy relationships.



In **Languages, Literacy and Communication**, your child will learn about languages. They'll understand and use Welsh, English and other languages. They'll study and create literature, and communicate in spoken, written or visual ways. This could include poetry, drama and film.



In **Science and Technology** your child will learn about biology, chemistry, physics, computer science and design and technology. They'll learn about design and engineering, living things, matter, forces and energy, and how computers work.

Assessment is linked to the new curriculum:

Assessment

Assessment will be part of your child's learning every day.

They'll work with their teachers to understand how well they're doing. This is important to help them:

- see where they are in their learning
- plan their next learning steps
- spot any issues or extra support they need

and to help their teacher:

- find ways to challenge them and
- see how well pupils are doing.



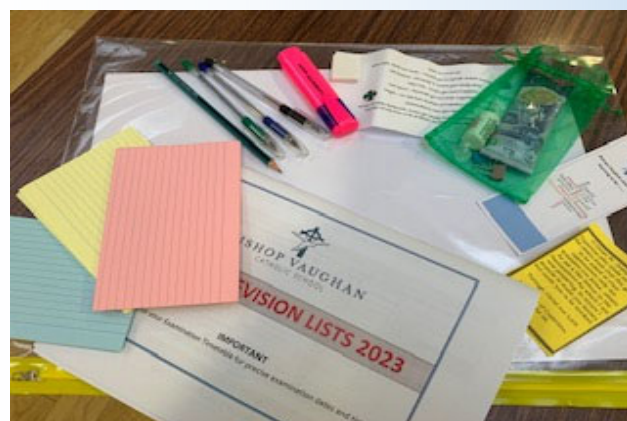
The school will also work with you to make sure that your child has the help they need to move forward.



The new curriculum is currently only in place for our **Year 7 pupils**. Next year it will be in place for **Years 7 and 8**. The following year it will be fully implemented, and in place for all Years 7 to 9 pupils. These years (key stage 3) are the year groups who will follow the Curriculum for Wales. After this, your child will start their GCSE courses in Year 10.

Information for Parents of GCSE and A Level Pupils:

Every pupil in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 will receive their revision resource pack to help them prepare for the demands of effective revision. The packs include a set of revision lists and a weekly revision schedule prepared by Heads of Department. They also include an array of resources including index cards, stationery and a few treats to get pupils through the revision season! Parents, carers and guardians were also invited to our Revision Readiness evening workshop before February Half term and the event was well attended!



The Learning Zone

The Learning Zone is open **Monday through to Thursday from 3pm until 4pm**. It provides a space for independent study, small group tuition or one to one tuition from our teachers. Academic support is bespoke and tailored to the needs of those attending to help support with private study, homework or examination revision! **Send your child along! Even just once a week can make a positive difference!**

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

Please encourage your child to get involved in any of the very wide range of extra-curricular activities that we offer here in Bishop Vaughan! These are highly beneficial and also lots of fun. The extra-curricular prospectus can be viewed here:

<https://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk/clubs-and-activities>

First Educators Online

If you have not yet done so, we encourage you to check out the First Educators section of our website (<https://www.bishopvaughan.co.uk/first-educators>) to access a range of resources that may be helpful to you as parents and carers.