



Curriculum Impact

‘Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.’

Aristotle.

At St. Bernadette’s we recognise that parents are the foremost educators of their children. In supporting our parents in the formation of their children, we firmly believe that our pupils benefit greatly from the time spent living, learning, and growing at our academy. We fully understand, value, and indeed treasure the opportunity we have to play our part in helping to shape the formational years of each child’s life who parents entrust to our care and it is a responsibility we embrace wholeheartedly.

In evaluating the impact of our curriculum on pupils, we must return to the principles set out in our ‘Curriculum Intent’ statement. Primarily, we seek to develop strong, positive relationships with our pupils, helping mould them into the young person that God intends them to be – well-rounded individuals with a clear sense of mission and self-worth, a strong set of morals, and thereby readying them to ultimately contribute positively to society in service of others. This is achieved through numerous means, including the exemplary role models provided by staff, an outstanding Catholic ethos that permeates the academy, an outstanding Religious Education curriculum and Collective Worship programme, a robust PSHE curriculum which includes British Values, high quality and dedicated pastoral support for all pupils, and an ongoing focus on charitable outreach for the poor and those less fortunate than ourselves.

‘The mission of the school is clear and motivating;
its presence is evident in the physical learning environments
and the words and actions of the children and staff around the school.

The school has a distinct and inspiring Catholic character
which inspires all that work and learn within the building.’

Diocesan Canonical Inspection Report, June 2018

Although the current Education Inspection Framework places less emphasis on national testing than previously was the case, this nevertheless remains an important way in which schools are held to account and is one of a number of ways in which the strength of our curriculum can therefore be judged. Academy data over time consistently shows that pupils at St. Bernadette’s go on to achieve well above the national average at all statutory phases of testing, and this despite most pupils entering the academy below national standards. Against these recognised national measures, our pupils thus make strong progress during their time at the academy and are well prepared academically for the next phase of their education.

The measure of a successful curriculum goes well beyond national testing, however, and the academy therefore constantly monitors the outcomes of pupils on a daily basis within class, and periodically through other processes such as work scrutiny, moderation, ongoing assessment, pupil progress meetings, listening to the pupil voice, and external audit – the outcomes of which feed into future action planning and ongoing adaptations to our curriculum over time, all with the intention of providing our children with the best education possible. Furthermore, our curriculum design continues to be influenced by the academy’s clear commitment to ongoing professional development for our staff. All of this work is undertaken in accordance with our firm conviction that a strong curriculum necessarily evolves over time, and from a desire to constantly improve and ‘strive for excellence’.

We offer an ambitious, engaging, high quality, and inclusive education to our children and which provides all learners with the pastoral support, knowledge, skills, and cultural capital they need to succeed. It is our firm belief that the substance of our education and the quality of its delivery prepares our children well for the opportunities and challenges they will face in life and at the next stage of their education.

Most importantly of all, we believe that we contribute to the lives of the young people whom we serve by helping to equip them with a spiritual foundation that establishes a strong set of morals rooted in gospel values, with a strong sense of self-worth and love of neighbour, and with a sense of mission for who God ultimately calls them to be.

‘Pupils have a profound respect for each other and the adults within the community.
As a result, care and love for all within the community is present; as one pupil told inspectors,
‘The love in this school is like dropping a stone in the water and seeing the ripples’.’

Diocesan Canonical Inspection Report, June 2018