



MARICOURT
CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL
& SIXTH FORM CENTRE

CURRICULUM POLICY

Mission Statement

Our Maricourt family, with Christ at the centre, is a community of welcome, compassion and respect in which we are encouraged to discover our true purpose and empowered to achieve the extraordinary so as to be the change we want to see in our world.

INSPIRE
WITH
MARICOURT

POLICY REVIEWED: November 2024
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Introduction

In accordance with the aims and mission of Maricourt, pupils should be provided with a curriculum to develop the whole person so that at the end of their school lives they are fully equipped intellectually, spiritually, physically and morally for the next stage in their education and life beyond.

The curriculum includes all the taught subjects but goes beyond these to include the formation of a clear moral code in line with Gospel Values so leading the individual young person to 'have life and have it to the full'. (John 10:10), to come to know God and fulfil His call to serve others in the service of the common good.

If you require further information about our curriculum, please contact the relevant subject leader or Mrs Bennett, deputy headteacher. (bennettc@maricourt.net)

Principles

- the curriculum reflects the aims and ambition of the National Curriculum
- the curriculum at KS3 spans three years and includes every subject in the National Curriculum
- the curriculum at KS4 has an academic core of EBAC subjects and wide range of option subjects
- the curriculum is sequenced and developmental, building each term on prior knowledge thus ensuring pupils become fluent and knowledgeable in every subject domain
- the curriculum includes opportunities for the development of pupils' cultural capital through an extensive programme of visits and trips both locally and globally
- the curriculum is adapted, remaining ambitious, to meet the needs of SEND pupils
- curriculum plans include clear end points in each subject which identify the standard expected
- the curriculum is broad and balanced, provides a wide range of subjects, preparing pupils for the next stage in their education or training and to be active citizens both in Britain and globally
- the curriculum develops pupils' spoken language, reading, writing and subject-specific vocabulary as central to the teaching of every subject
- the curriculum is clearly defined in schemes of learning by each subject area

Information about what is taught in the curriculum each year and in each subject is set out in detail on the school website. Information on extra-curricular activities and clubs is also published on the school website.

Religious Education

Maricourt is a Roman Catholic school and the religious education it provides, within the timetable, is in conformity with the teaching of the Catholic Church. The aim of Religious Education, flowing from the school's mission statement, is to enable pupils to experience an awareness of a personal and loving God. It should help them to make a positive response to this love, thereby nourishing their faith and assisting them to be aware of a spiritual dimension of life. The whole curriculum is infused with the ethos of the mission statement and a distinctive Mercy ethos. Religious Education is taught by subject specialists at all key stages and includes approved qualifications at level 2 and level 3 for all pupils.

The curriculum at key stage 3 (Years 7 to 9)

Curricular transition from KS2 is developed in partnership with our partner schools and through the MADCOS¹ partnership

Pupils study all subjects in the National Curriculum.

The curriculum at KS4 (Years 10 and 11)

Pupils study 9 GCSE/BTEC subjects. The curriculum includes separate science. All pupils can access the full range of subjects.

Pupils may study a range of academic and vocational subjects matched to their abilities and interests. RE, English and English Literature, maths, science, citizenship and PE remain part of the core curriculum. The availability of option subjects may be subject to demand.

The sixth-form curriculum

Acceptance into the sixth form is by application. Entry requirements are set at qualification and subject level and are contained within the sixth form prospectus. A range of subjects are taught which build on students' prior learning and ensure progression to higher levels. The curriculum offer is designed to meet the needs, expectations and future study plans of each student. Students' personal, social and academic development are supported as part of the Year 12 Enrichment and PSHE programme. Students are allocated to tutor groups and attend a 15-minute tutorial session at the start of each day.

The curriculum includes a balance of academic and vocational subjects. The curriculum includes RE (1 hour each week) taught by specialist teachers. A number of students complete the Edexcel Extended Project. Study programmes include planned, supervised private study where appropriate.

The sixth form curriculum includes an extensive programme of non-qualification activity, including work experience. This includes activities which prepare students for life in modern Britain. A schedule of student-led assemblies takes place throughout the year. A rich offer of extra-curricular activities and trips are available, detailed in the

sixth form section of the school website. Students are encouraged and invited to contribute to the wider life of the school community including as prefects, learning researchers, mentors and members of the school council.

GCSE mathematics and English are timetabled for students who have not achieved a good pass in these subjects

The sixth form offer includes Further Maths for suitably qualified students

Personal, Social, Health, Economic Education and Citizenship

The school places great emphasis on the personal and social education of its pupils. There is a thorough programme of study across all key stages, which aims to prepare pupils for life in modern Britain and its challenges.

Citizenship is a national curriculum subject, delivered in the school by a combination of discrete lessons, as part of other subjects and by whole year events.

Careers Education

Careers education starts in Year 7 through introductory lessons allowing the children to reflect on where they are now and on what they want to do in the future. The careers curriculum is designed to help the pupils plan and take control of their future. The work is designed to help the children prepare for their options at both 14 and 16. Pupils in year 11, have access to an impartial careers advisor, who will interview some students formally on a one-to-one basis and others informally. At the end of year 11 students present their careers management file, which has been compiled over the three years, to the Sefton Education Partnership employer in order to gain an accreditation. Mock interviews with employers take place for year 11 and sixth form students

All year groups have the opportunity to develop their employability and enterprise skills through taking part in various activities on the whole school activity days. Examples include teamwork, presentation, finance, listening skills and creativity.

A sixth form information evening is held each December for prospective students. At the end of Year 10, all pupils take part in a week-long work experience programme. The aim is to give pupils first hand experience of the world of work. During each year, a variety of external providers speak to year groups between year 8 and 13 about employability including vocational, traineeship and apprenticeship opportunities.

Year 7 Curriculum Diagram (Periods per Fortnight in brackets)

Maths (7)		Technology (2)	Reading
English (6)		PE (4)	
Science (6)		Music (2)	Art (2)
History (3)	Geography (3)	Computing (2) Digital Literacy (1)	Drama
Spanish (5)		RE (5)	

Pupils are taught the following subjects in ability sets: Maths

Year 8 Curriculum Diagram (Periods per Fortnight in brackets)

Pupils are taught the following subjects in sets: English, Science, Spanish, Computing, and maths.

Maths (7)		Technology (3)		
English (6)		Reading	Computing (2) Digital Literacy (1)	
Science (6)			Music (2)	Art (2)
History (3)	Geography (3)		PE (4)	
Spanish (5)		RE (5)		

Year 9 Curriculum Diagram (Periods per Fortnight in brackets)

RE (5)	Music (2)	Art (2)	Reading
History (4)	Geography (4)		Computing (2)
English (6)		Spanish (4)	
Maths (7)		PE (4)	Technology (2)
Science (7)			

Pupils are taught the following subjects in sets: RE, English, Maths, Science, MFL, Geography, History and Computing.

Year 10 Curriculum Diagram (Periods per Fortnight in brackets)

Combined Science (10)	
Option A (5)	RE (5)
Option B (5)	Option C (5)
English & English Literature (9)	PE (2)
Maths (9)	

Year 11 Curriculum Diagram (Periods per Fortnight in brackets)

English & English Literature (10)	
Option A (5)	RE (5)
Option B (5)	Option C (5)
Science (9)	PE (2)
Maths (9)	

KS4 Option Subjects

Core Subjects

PSHEE / Citizenship

GCSE RE

GCSE Mathematics

GCSE English Language

GCSE English Literature

GCSE Combined Science

Blue Pathway: Option Subjects

Pupils must select

GCSE History or Geography

GCSE Spanish

Pupils must then select 1 of the following subjects

GCSE Computing

GCSE Triple Science

OCR National Certificate in Computer Use

GCSE Art and Design

GCSE Psychology

Level 2 Cert in Constructing the Built Environment

GCSE PE

GCSE Music

GCSE Spanish

GCSE History

GCSE Geography

GCSE Dance

BTEC Hospitality and Catering

BTEC Enterprise

BTEC Health and Social Care

BTEC Sports Studies

BTEC Performing Arts

Yellow Pathway: Option Subjects

Pupils must select 1 of the following subjects

GCSE History
GCSE Geography
GCSE Spanish
GCSE Computer Science
GCSE Triple Science

Pupils must then select 2 of the following subjects

GCSE Computing
GCSE Triple Science
OCR National Certificate in Computer Use
GCSE Art and Design
GCSE Psychology
Level 2 Cert in Constructing the Built Environment
GCSE PE
GCSE Music
GCSE Spanish
GCSE History
GCSE Geography
GCSE Dance
BTEC Hospitality and Catering
BTEC Enterprise
BTEC Health and Social Care
BTEC Sports Studies
BTEC Performing Arts

Green Pathway: Option Subjects

Pupils must then select 3 of the following subjects

GCSE Computing

GCSE Triple Science

OCR National Certificate in Computer Use

GCSE Art and Design

GCSE Psychology

Level 2 Cert in Constructing the Built Environment

GCSE PE

GCSE Music

GCSE Spanish

GCSE History

GCSE Geography

GCSE Dance

BTEC Hospitality and Catering

BTEC Enterprise

BTEC Health and Social Care

BTEC Sports Studies

BTEC Performing Arts

GCSE/BTEC Option Enrolments (six-year trend)

	GCSE Year							
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Cohort	218	243	221	236	181	213	209	205
History	98	126	97	56	70	107	81	64
Geography	114	81	90	127	86	51	56	78
Humanity	97%	85%	85%	78%	86%	74%	66%	68%
French	25	31	19					
Spanish	27	43	81	42	38	59	52	61
Mandarin			8	5	6	0	0	0
MFL	24%	30%	49%	20%	24%	27%	25%	29%
Art	40	37	65	64	42	40	48	45
Music	7	19	16	10	12	12	9	7
Perf Arts	12	18	8	14	10	5	12	13
Dance	8	7	14	17	9	4	14	19
Expr Arts	31%	33%	47%	44%	40%	29%	33%	32%
Textiles	0	0	0	17	7	19	16	0
Food	9	10	10	13	7	19	32	44
Product Design	17	15	13	19			16	
Construction					24	36	35	42
Technology	12%	10%	10%	21%	21%	35%	47%	42%
ICT	126	120	76	57	33	17	45	22
Computing	61	58	39	35	36	36	53	25
ICT/Computing	86%	73%	52%	39%	38%	25%	47%	23%
PE/Sport	37	50	30	63	46	56	40	38
Separate Science		22 (9%)	17 (8%)	24 (10%)	34 (19%)	23 (11%)	30 (14%)	25 (12%)
Business	37	54	47	97	72	85	77	76
Health	17	17	30	29	48	33	32	24
EBAC				8%	14%	12%	13%	11%

GCSE/BTEC Option Enrolments (six-year trend)

	Entered	APS	Standard	Strong	MFL	Hums
2024	13%				29%	61%
2023	12%	3.28	5%	3%	28%	70%
2022	15%	3.81	11%	8%	24%	81%
2021	8%	4.33	8%	6%	18%	72%
2020	30%	4.23	21%	13%	46%	79%
2019	17%	3.56	8%	4%	29%	71%
2018	23%	4.12	20%	12%	24%	90%

Sixth form Curriculum Diagram (periods per fortnight in brackets)

	Periods Allocated Per Fortnight
3 Option Subjects	27
RE	2
Supervised Study	7
Private Study	14

Students continuing to study GCSE English and/or maths take these subjects in addition to 3 option subjects

Year 13 Option Choices (2024/2025) Vocational subjects are show in italics.
Current enrolments alongside subjects

<i>Option A</i>	<i>Option B</i>	<i>Option C</i>	<i>Option D</i>
Biology 3	Chemistry 3	Spanish 4	Art 5
Economics 8	Criminology 16	English Lit 17	Criminology 11
Physics 5	Sociology 11	<i>Sport 4</i>	<i>Health Studies 6</i>
Psychology 13	Geography 9	Psychology 9	Business 17
<i>Hospitality 2</i>	Further Maths 3	<i>ICT 11</i>	Maths 12
Business 15	History 10		

Year 12 Option Choices (2024/2025) Vocational subjects are show in italics.
 Current enrolments alongside subjects

<i>Option A</i>	<i>Option B</i>	<i>Option C</i>	<i>Option D</i>
Art 3	Chemistry 11	Biology 10	English Lit 15
Criminology 30	<i>ICT 16</i>	Physics 9	Geography 3
Maths 14	<i>Sport 12</i>	Business 26	Computing 7
<i>Health Studies 7</i>	History 6	Sociology 17	Psychology 19
		Spanish 3	