

# SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES 2019-21



## Let Your Light Shine

If we love others, we live in the light. 1 John 2:10

### Over the next two years our core priorities are

#### Priority 1

To continue to review our school **curriculum** ensuring its structure and **intent** guarantee:

- the **highest expectations** for all our pupils, particularly boys
- gains in **knowledge** and **understanding** for each child irrespective of starting point or disadvantage
- **progression** to appropriate and successful academic or vocational **pathways** post 16 opportunities to “develop unique gifts and talents” and “to live out our commitment to love, service and justice in the local and global community”

#### Priority 2

To ensure that the implementation of our **subject curricula** consistently deploys the best **pedagogical practice** responsive to the varied needs of all our pupils, but particularly in relation to **boys’ learning**, so that all “develop their unique gifts and talents, striving for excellence in everything we do.”

#### Priority 3

To further improve **behaviour** across school by ensuring established routines are consistently used; the most effective teaching strategies are deployed with due regard to the needs of all pupils; and that **interventions** are timely and effective in reducing instances of any repeated negative behaviours so to “create an environment of welcome, love and respect for each member of our learning family.”

#### Priority 4

To reduce the **absence** and **persistent absence** of all pupils and secure improvements in the attendance and persistent absence of disadvantaged pupils by “creating an environment of welcome, love and respect for each member of our learning family.

#### Priority 5

Ensure every child takes the extensive opportunities to **grow** and **develop in ‘character’** as unique individuals committed to:

- “living out their commitment to love, service and justice in the local and global community”
- “nurturing their journey of faith and discovery”
- “and celebrating and reflecting on the love of God, which is at the heart of all we are”

#### Priority 6

To ensure **leadership** at all levels in school **consistently** achieves our mission to create an environment of welcome, love and respect for each member of our learning family” and “striving for excellence in everything we do”

# How are we going to do this?

## Priority 1

**To continue to review our school curriculum ensuring its structure and intent guarantee highest expectations, gains in knowledge and understanding and progression to successful post 16 pathways**

To achieve this, we will:

- transition back to a 3year KS3 for GCSE 2023/4 or sooner
- Introduce an opt out Ebacc system to further promote the government Ebacc uptake ambition
- Strengthen curriculum links in English and maths between KS2 and KS3
- Ensure all subject progression models allow for planned and reactive opportunities for gaps in learning to be closed so pupils know more and can recall more
- Review our LfL and **RSE** programme in the light of new national guidelines and in accordance with Catholic teaching to celebrate a holistic vision of the human person
- Monitor closely the impact of curriculum progress models on SEND pupils

## Priority 2

**To ensure that the implementation of our subject curricula consistently deploys the best pedagogical practice responsive to the varied needs of all our pupils but particularly in relation to boys' learning**

To achieve this, we will:

- Continue to train teachers in best pedagogical practice combined with good subject knowledge so to deliver improved progress outcomes in GCSE, particularly DAP and boys
- Develop and implement a whole school approach to literacy that focuses on
  - improving pupils' communication, including oracy and articulacy, to ensure pupils know how to express themselves clearly, in extended terms
  - developing consistent approaches to teaching and marking extended writing across the curriculum, to ensure quality and accuracy in all subjects
- Embed the best practices which improve memory retention and recall so that pupils' long-term memory is developed
- To ensure that assessment is used well to help pupils embed and use knowledge fluently or to check understanding and to inform teaching
- To develop practice so that leaders of different subject areas work together to plan opportunities to make connections between discrete subject areas so that the whole of the taught curriculum is a coherent and compelling learning experience and expression of the Catholic understanding of reality.

### **Priority 3**

**To further improve behaviour across school by ensuring established routines are consistently used; the most effective teaching strategies are deployed with due regard to the needs of all pupils; and that interventions are timely and effective in reducing instances of any repeated negative behaviours**

To achieve this, we will:

- Embed our explicit Catholic virtues-based culture, where staff can clearly identify and articulate these virtues through our Gospel Values behaviour system
- Commission the earliest intervention for pupils at risk of disengaging from school, in particular DAP and boys, and monitor its impact closely
- Continue to develop pupils` positive attitudes to their learning, ensuring they are resilient to set backs and take pride in their achievements, especially boys

### **Priority 4**

**To reduce the absence and persistent absence of all pupils and secure improvements in the attendance and persistent absence of disadvantaged pupils.**

To achieve this, we will:

- Improve attendance across the school with a target of 97%
- Raise attendance of disadvantaged pupils to ensure their attendance is in line with non-disadvantaged students nationally
- Reduce persistent absenteeism to ensure it continues to be better than national.

## Priority 5

**Ensure every child takes the extensive opportunities to grow and develop in ‘character’ as unique individuals committed to:**

- **“living out their commitment to love, service and justice in the local and global community”**
- **“nurturing their journey of faith and discovery”**
- **“and celebrating and reflecting on the love of God, which is at the heart of all we are”**

To achieve this, we will:

- Continuously evaluate cultural capital learning experiences to ensure that pupils` have access to a wide and rich set of experiences which are of an exceptional quality and reflect the richness of Catholic contributions to culture
- Continue to prepare pupils for life in modern day Britain, developing an understanding of British Values, and how to be responsible, respectful and active citizens
- Continue to use the Gatsby Benchmarks to ensure that careers provision remains outstanding and aspirational
- Continue to develop the extent to which pupils actively contribute towards the Catholic Life of the school and how they respond to the opportunities provided for their personal development
- Extend opportunities for pupils to take on leadership responsibilities in developing the Catholic Life of the school

## Priority 6

**To ensure leadership at all levels in school consistently achieves our mission to create an environment of welcome, love and respect for each member of our learning family” and “striving for excellence in everything we do”**

To achieve this, we will:

- Continue to train teachers in best pedagogical practice combined with good subject knowledge so to deliver improved progress outcomes in GCSE, particularly DAP and boys
- Prioritise the achievements of DAP and boys
- Explore new ways to engage parents/carers to the very obvious benefit of pupils. As a result, all parents/carers have a thorough understanding of the school’s mission and are highly supportive of it, including those who might otherwise find working with the school difficult
- To monitor and evaluate progress towards reducing workload and improving wellbeing so that leaders and governors provide the highest levels of pastoral care for staff, and there is an explicit and concrete commitment to both the physical and mental wellbeing of staff.