St Mary's Catholic High School, Leyland
Curriculum Organisation 2026 – 2027

This document should be read in conjunction with the School Curriculum Policy, the Options Course Guide Booklet, the SEND Policy & PSHCEE/RSE Policies.

School Mission:

Our Mission is to educate the young people entrusted to our care in a Catholic, Christian way that ensures that each one is valued and cared for and achieves the best of which he or she is capable. This is best encapsulated by the school motto 'Let Your Light Shine'.

Curriculum Intent:

St Mary's Catholic High School is committed to delivering the best quality education for all our pupils.

We believe that our curriculum should allow pupils to be engaged at every stage of their time with us, meeting the needs of each learner and offering appropriate challenge to all.

We strive to deliver outcomes which will fulfil every child's talent and secure the best possible future for them. We recognise the importance of examination success, and celebrate both individual and collective achievement, in whatever form success takes for each pupil. However, we believe that secondary education is about much more than results.

We want every young person in our care to have access to opportunities not always available to them away from school, delivering rich and varied experiences both within the school building and beyond.

Ultimately, we aim to deliver this education with Jesus Christ, our divine teacher, acting as our example. Pupils will experience dignity and respect, and we will develop young minds that will impact positively on society both during and after their time at St. Mary's.

Curriculum Organisation:

The curriculum at St Mary's is divided into Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9) and Key Stage 4 (Years 10 - 11). At both Key Stages, the timetable is constructed around a 2 week, 25-hour per week, with five 1-hour lessons per day.

Where desirable at both Key Stage 3 & 4, St Mary's sets its pupils according to ability in Mathematics. English, Science and Religious Studies.

Personal Development

The St Mary's Personal Development curriculum runs on a rolling programme throughout the academic year for every pupil within the school. We allocate 5 lessons per half term for bespoke Personal Development 1-hour lessons, across the whole school. Staff are allocated to year groups and specific lessons according to their areas of expertise, based on the three themes of Living in the Wider World, Relationships and Healthy Living. Each theme has been sequenced, designed and taught in line with our Catholic Values. Within our Living in the Wider World Unit each pupil will receive careers guidance using our online Morrisby Careers platform. The St Mary's curriculum also includes a unique and bespoke module for each year group designated especially for St Mary's students, for example,

discussing expectations in Year 7, supporting option choices in Year 9 and college application/revision techniques in Year 11. It is our belief that the curriculum to provide students with the "foundations" to let their light shine.

Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)

Our KS3 curriculum offers students the opportunity to study a wide range of subjects for three years. The curriculum is designed to give a broad range of experiences, following the National Curriculum, before Options are taken during Year 9 in readiness for KS4.

During KS3, all pupils will have opportunities to study the following subjects; Religious Studies, English, Mathematics, Science, a Modern Foreign Language (Spanish), Humanities (History and Geography), Technology, Art, Music, PE, & Computer Science.

The number of periods allocated to each subject per 2 weeks at Key Stage 3 is as follows:

Year 7:

Subject	*No. of hours*	*Subject*	*No. of hours*
Religious Studies	5	Technology	4
English	6	Computer Science	2
Mathematics	6	History	4
Science	6	Music	2
Modern Foreign Language (Spanish)	5	Geography	4
PE	4	Art	2

Year 8:

Subject	*No. of hours*	*Subject*	*No. of hours*
Religious Studies	5	Technology	4
English	8	History	4
Mathematics	7	Music	2
Science	6	Geography	4
	5	Art	1
PE	4		

Year 9:

Subject	*No. of hours*	*Subject*	*No. of hours*
Religious Studies	5	Technology	4
English	6	Drama	2
Mathematics	6	History	4
Science	6	Music	2
Modern Foreign Language (Spanish/French)	5	Geography	4
PE	4	Art	2

Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)

During Year 9, pupils engage in the Option's process. They are asked to choose 3 subjects to study in depth at KS4, in addition to the core subjects of Religious Studies, English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Combined Science (all pupils will study at least combined science unless they have opted to study separate science as part of the option process) & PE.

With suitable guidance, pupils have the freedom to choose their options at KS4. The range of subjects on offer is designed to take account of the differing abilities of pupils, as well as offering a wide array of choices, linked to both the academic and vocational futures pupils may wish to pursue.

The Options process for 2026-2027 included the following subjects:

GCSE Option Subjects	
Separate Sciences: Biology, Chemistry, Physics	Design Technology
History	Food, preparation and nutrition
Geography	GCSE PE
French	Art
Spanish	Photography
Computer Science	
Music	

Vocational Option Subjects	
Creative i-Media	Sports Studies

A small number of pupils may pursue a more vocational route via an alternative curriculum. This may involve local college courses, work placements and a reduced academic curriculum based on the core subjects. In addition, it occasionally proves necessary to tailor an individual's timetable to meet their particular pastoral needs. This is developed in conjunction with the pupil, the carers and any external agencies as appropriate.

At KS4, time for subjects and options is allocated as such:

Year 10:

Subject	*No. of hours*	*Subject*	*No. of hours*
Religious Studies	5	Core PE	3
English	9	Option A	5
Mathematics	9	Option B	5
Science	9	Option C	5

Year 11:

Subject	*No. of hours*	*Subject*	*No. of hours*
Religious Studies	5	Core PE	3
English	9	Option A	5
Mathematics	9	Option B	5
Science	9	Option C	5

Further information

For further information on our curriculum, please contact the school in the usual way and your enquiry will be directed to the most suitable member of staff to reply. For individual subjects, this would normally be the Curriculum Leader in charge of that subject. For enquiries regarding Special Educational Needs, please contact Mrs Tumelty (SENDCO). More general enquiries will be directed to Mrs Horridge, our Deputy Headteacher.

Curriculum Leaders	
Religious Studies	Mrs Conway
English	Miss Wade
Maths	Miss Corris
Science	Mrs Benson
Humanities	Mrs Blundell
Modern Foreign Languages	Mrs Drew
Expressive Arts – Music and Drama	Mr Weaver
PE/Sports Studies	Mrs Addison-Jones
Personal Development	Mr Weaver
Technology	Mrs Sales
SENDCO	Mrs Tumelty