



Our Curriculum 2026 – 2027

"A good school provides a rounded education for the whole person. And a good Catholic school, over and above this, should help all its students to become saints."

Pope Benedict XVI, 2010

Why Our Curriculum?

When looking at anything related to our curriculum we always start with **"Why?"** Why is each subject taught, and how does it shape and enrich the lives of the children entrusted to our care?

The answers to these questions form the foundation of the *Why we teach what we teach* document. This work continues to guide us, reminding us that a curriculum is never "finished" but is instead continually refined to remain purposeful, contemporary, and responsive to the changing needs of our children.

Drawing on expert research and best practice, we have designed a bespoke, engaging curriculum that:

- Prioritises the essential building blocks of speaking, reading, writing, and mathematics.
- Encourages creativity, self-expression, and critical thinking.
- Provides carefully planned experiences inside and outside the classroom to broaden horizons, inspire curiosity, and deepen understanding of the world.

At the heart of this work is our unwavering commitment to place **Christ and our children** at the centre of all we do. By recognising learning as a sacred pursuit, we fulfil our mission: **"Live, Love, Learn."**

Our Lady of Lourdes is a community where all encounter a transforming love and truth, and where every individual is valued equally in the eyes of the Lord.

Intent

"In a democratic society which prizes equality of opportunity, the curriculum should be based first and foremost on the knowledge we consider all young people should have access to and begin to acquire during their school years."

Mary Myatt

Our curriculum is designed to enable all children to become:

- **Successful learners** – who enjoy learning, make progress, and achieve.
- **Confident individuals** – who are able to live safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives.
- **Responsible citizens** – who make a positive contribution to society.

Through this, our children gain the knowledge they need to be educated, responsible citizens, while also encountering the very best of human thought, creativity, and achievement.

As with every aspect of life at Our Lady of Lourdes, our curriculum is rooted in our Mission Statement — **Live, Love, Learn** — and guided by our core values of **Resilience, Tolerance, Love, and Compassion**.

Implementation

“It doesn’t matter how great an educational idea or intervention is in principle; what really matters is how it manifests itself in the day-to-day work of people in schools.”

Sir Kevan Collins

Our curriculum is based on the expectations of the **2014 National Curriculum** and supported by the guidance of *Development Matters 2021*. It is **inclusive**, designed so that every child can access and thrive within it.

We believe in providing a curriculum that inspires, excites, and nurtures a lifelong love of learning. It is enriched by meaningful experiences — including visits, trips, and creative projects — that bring learning to life and prepare our children to flourish in modern Britain.

To achieve this, we follow a **three-strand approach**:

- **Discover (Autumn Term)** – Led by History, this phase develops children’s ability to think as historians, evaluate sources, and explore the past with curiosity and critical awareness.
- **Explore (Spring Term)** – Led by Geography and Design Technology, children investigate the world around them, building practical skills and deepening their understanding of place, environment, and innovation.
- **Create (Summer Term)** – Focused on the Arts, this phase allows children to become artists, inventors, and performers, expressing themselves through creativity and imagination.

Across all phases, **Religious Education remains central**, with units from *the Religious Education Directory (RED)* ‘*To Know You More Clearly*’ carefully chosen to ensure learning is purposeful, Christ-centred, and rooted in Scripture.

Curriculum plans are sequenced to build knowledge and skills progressively, supported by enquiry-led questions and philosophical concepts that vary according to class needs. Each subject is championed by a staff leader, ensuring expertise, passion, and accountability across the curriculum.

Impact

“Knowledge is something that escapes its origins; it’s there for everybody. It isn’t just the preserve of the people who hold it.”

Michael Young

At Our Lady of Lourdes, progress means more than coverage. It means **the widening and deepening of essential knowledge, skills, understanding, and learning behaviours**.

Our curriculum is designed to:

- Ensure children revisit and build on prior learning.
- Enable depth of understanding, not surface recall.
- Allow every child to progress at their own pace, developing mastery in the most meaningful way for them.

We strive for our children to leave us not only well-prepared academically but also spiritually and morally formed, ready to live out their faith and make a difference in the world.

For further information, please see our curriculum plans on the school website, or contact:

- **Mr McCann** (Headteacher)
- **Mr Gallagher** (Deputy Headteacher and Curriculum Development Manager)

"We need to provide an education which teaches critical thinking and encourages the development of mature moral values."

Pope Francis

