

ST COLUMBA'S SCHOOL

Curriculum Vision

Faith • Flourishing • Fullness of Life

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

John 10:10

Our Catholic Mission

At St Columba's, we strive to offer a curriculum rooted in the mission of the Catholic Church and inspired by Christ's promise in John 10:10. We believe that every child is created in the image and likeness of God, uniquely gifted and called to flourish. We therefore seek to nurture the whole person—spiritually, morally, intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically—so that every pupil may experience life in all its fullness.

The Gospel values of love, hope, compassion, forgiveness, justice and service underpin our vision for every area of the curriculum and the wider life of our school. Through Religious Education, English, mathematics, science, the humanities, the arts, computing, languages and physical education, we strive to help pupils recognise their responsibility to others, care for God's creation and use their knowledge and talents in the service of the common good.

Ambition, Inclusion and the Triangle of Need

We aim to provide an ambitious, broad, balanced and inclusive curriculum. Across every subject, we strive to respond to each child's triangle of need by considering their academic development, emotional and social wellbeing, and sense of belonging and purpose.

Through adaptive teaching, appropriate challenge and timely support, we seek to remove barriers to learning while maintaining high expectations for all. We aim to enable every pupil—including those with special educational needs or disabilities and those experiencing disadvantage—to participate, achieve and feel valued in every area of school life.

Strong Foundations for Every Subject

We strive to establish strong foundations from the earliest years and to build upon them throughout each child's journey at St Columba's. We place particular importance on communication and language, early reading, writing and mathematics, while recognising that secure foundations are essential in every subject.

Through carefully sequenced learning, we aim to help pupils develop secure knowledge and skills, remember what they have learned, make meaningful connections between subjects and apply their understanding confidently in new contexts.

Oracy Across the Curriculum

Oracy is central to our vision for learning across the whole curriculum. In every subject, we seek to provide opportunities for pupils to listen attentively, speak clearly, use subject-specific vocabulary, explain their thinking, ask thoughtful questions and engage respectfully with different viewpoints.

Through discussion, debate, performance, presentation and collaborative learning, we aim to deepen pupils' understanding and help every child find and value their voice.

Metacognition and Independent Learning

We strive to develop metacognition across all curriculum areas so that pupils become increasingly reflective, confident and independent learners. Whether solving a mathematical problem, interpreting a text, carrying out a scientific investigation, creating a piece of art or evaluating a performance, we aim to teach pupils how to plan, monitor and evaluate their learning.

We encourage pupils to select effective strategies, respond positively to feedback and recognise that effort, reflection and perseverance can help them improve.

Emotional Resilience

We seek to strengthen emotional resilience throughout the taught curriculum and the wider experiences we provide. Through literature, faith, sport, creative expression, teamwork, problem-solving and opportunities for leadership and service, we aim to help pupils recognise and manage their emotions, approach challenges with courage and hope, learn from mistakes and seek help when needed.

We strive to create secure and nurturing relationships so that pupils feel able to take appropriate risks, grow in confidence and develop the resilience needed for learning and life.

Partnership with Parents, Parish and Community

Parents and carers are the first educators of their children and essential partners in our mission. We strive to work closely with families, the parish and the wider community to enrich learning across the curriculum and create a shared culture of faith, inclusion, high aspiration and mutual support.

Through open communication and meaningful opportunities for partnership, we aim to ensure that every child is known, supported and celebrated.

Our Aspiration for Every Child

Through all areas of our curriculum, collective worship, enrichment opportunities and wider school life, we strive to form knowledgeable, articulate, compassionate and resilient young people who know that they are loved by God.

We seek to prepare pupils to make wise choices, appreciate the richness of human experience, serve others and contribute confidently to their communities—living out their faith and embracing the fullness of life promised by Christ.