



Holy Cross

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Teaching and Learning Policy

'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full' (John 10:10).

1. Aim

We are a Catholic community where every person is valued. We recognise each pupil as being made in the image of God, with their own unique gifts and qualities. Christ is at the heart of our school, and we are committed to creating a community where all pupils feel safe, valued and able to be themselves, take pride in who they are, be happy, and make a positive contribution to the lives of others. This policy reflects our mission to Love God, Work Hard and Be Kind. Through high-quality teaching and learning, we also promote British Values by fostering respectful classroom discussion, debate and collaborative learning. Pupils are encouraged to think critically, express their views with confidence, listen respectfully to the opinions of others, and engage thoughtfully with challenging ideas in a safe, inclusive and supportive environment, preparing them to become responsible and compassionate citizens in modern Britain.

2. Objectives

- To form a focal point of the school's relentless pursuit of excellence in the classroom.
- To ensure consistency of practice.

3. Expectations

Teachers are expected to:

- Plan lessons that enable all pupils to make progress relative to their starting points.
- Plan lessons that enable pupils to recall prior learning, identify misconceptions and activate hard thinking.
- Plan lessons that enable pupils to plan, monitor and evaluate their own learning.
- Ensure that when Artificial Intelligence is used to plan or assess in lessons that they follow the Artificial Intelligence Usage Policy and associated policies (Homework Policy, Feedback Policy) to ensure that AI enhances pupils' learning.
- Direct pupils as to when it is appropriate or not appropriate for them to use AI to support learning.
- Use prior data to ascertain pupils' starting points to personalise the curriculum.
- Know, identify, and cater for the different cohorts of pupils in each class.
- Share the learning objective and success criteria with pupils at the beginning of the lesson.
- Use a variety of methods to determine the rate of pupil progress.
- Promote high standards of literacy, vocabulary, oracy and the correct use of Standard English.
- Promote and develop pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Set homework when necessary to reinforce, revisit or extend learning.
- Demonstrate consistently the positive attitudes, values and behaviour which are expected of pupils.
- Deploy support staff effectively.
- Have high standards of behaviour to create a supportive environment for learning and to consistently apply the school's behaviour system to maximise every opportunity to learn.
- Provide regular feedback, which fulfils the school feedback policy, both verbally and through written comments that relate specifically to the learning objective.
- Provide DIRT (Dedicated Improvement and Reflection Time).

- Maintain good, effective relationships with pupils, exercise appropriate authority, and act decisively when necessary.
- Reflect on the quality of their practice and to always seek to improve their teaching practice.

Pupils are expected to:

- Demonstrate consistently the highest standards of behaviour.
- Show a commitment and resilience to learning.
- Ensure that any work produced is demonstrably their own.
- Only use AI when directed to do so by their teacher.
- Highlight if they have used AI to assist or support their work in any way.
- Take pride in what they do and complete all work to the best of their ability.

Middle Leaders are expected to:

- Monitor the quality of Teaching and Learning, providing accurate judgements.
- Provide feedback on observed practice and opportunities for colleagues to reflect.
- Keep up to date with any changes in their subject area and curriculum requirements.

The Leadership Team are expected to:

- Ensure that the whole school Teaching and Learning Policy is fully implemented.
- Evaluate the impact of this policy on the quality of learning and progress.

A Review of the Teaching and Learning Policy will take place in Summer 2027