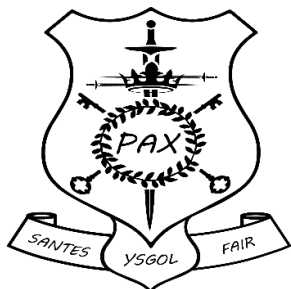


1. Our engagement process.

St. Mary's was one of the original Pioneer Schools charged with constructing the new curriculum framework. Our work in this area has allowed us to conduct extensive research about how great learning happens from around the world; this included, for example, the headteacher visiting a range of innovative institutions in the United States and working closely with the University of Virginia. Consequently, we were very well informed regarding excellence in pedagogy. After this, the school community spent time reflecting on how the excellent practice identified could best be applied to us. We decided that a Core Knowledge approach was the best solution. We then consulted with staff, children, parents and governors about the sort of themes that need to be studied in a successful mid-21st Century school. Staff worked to construct a detailed set of 'domains of learning'. These are currently being taught in school and they are continually being refined. We have consulted with pupils and parents, for a second time, as a part of our work to ensure that our curriculum is fit for purpose and that our partners are well informed.



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2. How our Curriculum meets the required elements of the Curriculum for Wales (CfW).

Our innovative and creative work has made sure that the required elements are met because we've conducted extensive mapping exercises to ensure that:

- All of our domains are designed to deliver the **four core purposes** of the curriculum, identified in 'Successful Futures'.
- The content and skills being learnt will allow our pupils to have all the experiences they need as they work towards each progression step.
- Learners will experience an authentic, broad and balanced curriculum covering all Areas of Learning and the cross-curricular themes.
- It encompasses the 'Statements of What Matters' as laid out in the new CfW.
- It covers all mandatory elements as laid down by the Senedd.
- We provide a high quality programme of Catholic Religious Education and Relationships and Sex Education.



3. Learning progression and arrangements for assessment.

We have used the Welsh Government's Principles of Progression to ensure that our children have the optimum chance to progress rapidly as they move through our school. We have designed a broad range of assessment tools, formative, summative and ipsative, which allow us to have a clear understanding of where each child is at any point in time and what they need to do in order to succeed and progress. We have designed Progression Models in all areas to ensure that staff have a common understanding of expectations in terms of skills development. We understand that assessment must impact on future teaching if it is to be truly effective; details are shown in our *Assessment Policy*. We will work within our cluster team of schools, other schools more widely, the Local Authority, the Archdiocese of Cardiff and the Central South Consortium (CSC) to develop a shared understanding of progression with the aim of ensuring a high quality continuum of learning for all.

4. How the curriculum will be kept under review.

Staff will continually reflect on the quality of our curriculum and the culture established will ensure that it will be refined and edited as a part of our day to day work.

A robust cycle of monitoring and review is in place, as a part of the school's self-evaluation work. The manner in which the CfW is working and its impact will be a key element of this work. We will work closely with the governing body to ensure that our curriculum is the best that it can be. They will receive regular reports on progress and Link Governors will be directly involved in this work.

In addition, we will continue to seek the views of staff, pupils and their parents. We will listen to them respectfully and take their ideas into account when refining our work.