



Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust

Curriculum Statement

February 2026

- The Directors of Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust (ESCAT) hold the view that each school within the Trust is uniquely positioned to develop its own curriculum policy, which in turn shapes the educational framework it implements. While adhering to the Bishop of Portsmouth's Directive on Religious Education, the Trust will not impose a specific curriculum, scheme of work, assessment model, or learning platform.
- Central to the curriculum decision-making process are leadership teams and school subject leaders, who bear the responsibility of ensuring that the curriculum promotes inclusivity, maintains high academic standards, and fosters ambition for all students, particularly for students with SEND and those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Furthermore, it is expected that curriculum leaders across the Trust will actively share best practices that are grounded in evidence-based outcomes, thereby enhancing the overall educational experience for all students.
- As a Trust we believe education is a sacred endeavour, shared between family, school, and Church, through which young people are invited to grow in holiness, wisdom, and service.
- Our curriculum is shaped by the Church's understanding that education is not solely the transmission of knowledge, but the formation of persons who seek truth, love what is good, and act justly as inspired by Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching.

Through our curricula we aim to develop pupils who:

- Seek truth in all areas of learning, recognising Christ as the source of all wisdom.
- Live out the virtues of faith, hope, and charity.
- Understand their responsibility to serve the common good.
- Recognise their God-given gifts and discern their vocation.

Each school uses the National Curriculum as a foundation, enhanced by our unique ethos, to ensure all pupils gain essential knowledge, deep subject understanding, and spiritual and moral formation rooted in Gospel values. The curriculum ensures that all pupils acquire the essential knowledge and skills needed for future learning. Our intent is to promote deep learning that enhances retention and understanding over time, enabling pupils to build secure foundations in every subject.

Our curriculum is ambitious and designed to challenge and support all pupils, regardless of ability or background. We ensure equal access to the full curriculum while also enriching pupils' learning with a broad range of academic, artistic, vocational, and cultural opportunities.

We are committed to maintaining a broad and balanced curriculum across all key stages and actively resist any narrowing of subject provision. Our use of technology is strategic, supporting both in-class learning and independent study beyond the school day.

Religious Education at the Heart of the Curriculum

Religious Education is the core of our curriculum and the foundation upon which all other learning is built. All our schools commit to meeting the bishop's requirement for the teaching of RE. Lessons are structured in accordance with Diocesan guidance.

RE enables pupils to:

- Encounter the person of Jesus Christ.
- Deepen their knowledge of Catholic doctrine, Scripture, and Tradition.
- Reflect on the relationship between faith and reason.
- Develop respect and understanding for other faiths and worldviews.
- Through high-quality RE, pupils are supported to grow in faith and to articulate their beliefs with confidence and compassion.

Catholic Worldview Across the Curriculum

All subjects within our Trust are taught through a Catholic lens, recognising that God is present in all truth and human endeavour.

Our curriculum:

- Encourages wonder at creation and respect for God's world.
- Promotes ethical reflection and moral reasoning.
- Develops an understanding of humanity's responsibility to care for others and for creation.
- Affirms the unity of faith and reason, particularly through the sciences, humanities, and the arts.

Our students' world view is enhanced through a rich programme of enrichment that broadens horizons and develops personal and social skills.

A well-planned and progressive Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance programme is delivered in all schools appropriate for age and stage, raising aspirations, providing meaningful encounters with employers, and equipping pupils with the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about their future education and careers.

Primary and Secondary Curriculum Journey

Primary Schools: Our curriculum nurtures a sense of awe and wonder, laying foundations in knowledge, skills, and virtues. Pupils are encouraged to grow in love of learning, prayer, and community, preparing them for the next stage of their formation.

Secondary Schools including our Sixth forms: Our curriculum deepens intellectual engagement and theological understanding, supporting pupils to question, reflect, and discern. Pupils are challenged to apply Gospel values to contemporary issues and to prepare for adult life rooted in faith and service.

Across ESCAT, curriculum progression reflects the Church's commitment to lifelong formation.

Inclusion and the Preferential Option for the Vulnerable

In line with Catholic Social Teaching, we uphold the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable. Our curriculum is inclusive by design, ensuring that pupils with SEND, or additional challenges are fully supported and valued as members of the Body of Christ. High-quality, evidence-informed interventions are in place to close attainment gaps and accelerate pupil progress where needed.

Formation of Character and Virtue

Our curriculum explicitly seeks to form virtuous young people who:

- Act with integrity, compassion, and humility.
- Understand the importance of reconciliation, forgiveness, and mercy.
- Engage in acts of service and social justice.
- Recognise their call to live as disciples of Christ in the modern world.

Personal development, including Relationships, Health and Sex Education, is taught faithfully and sensitively in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Mission, Impact, and Vocation

Through prayer, liturgy, teaching, and community life, our curriculum supports pupils to become:

- Faithful and articulate people of God.
- Responsible citizens committed to the common good.
- Lifelong learners who seek truth and wisdom.
- Young people able to discern and respond to God's call in their lives.