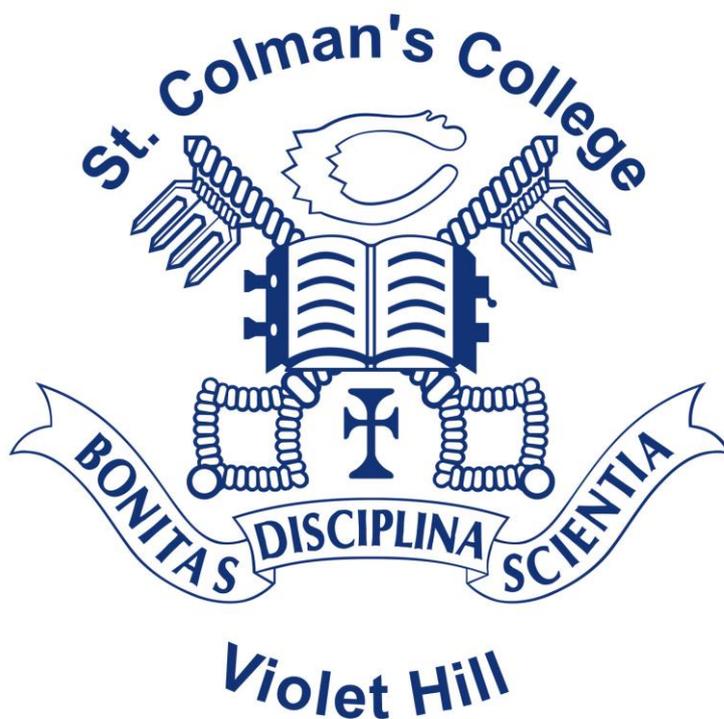


***ST. COLMAN'S COLLEGE
VIOLET HILL***



Whole School Policy:
Curriculum

Date of Policy: March 2001
Last Reviewed: September 2016
Reviewed by: A. Henry
Next Review: September 2017

CURRICULUM POLICY

Aims

The curriculum in St. Colman's is everything that the College offers pupils by way of learning experience and opportunity, planned in the context of trying to meet individual needs.

In accordance with our College aims, the curriculum that we offer enables each pupil to realise his full potential and to develop all of his interests and talents. It is designed to ensure that there is breadth and balance at each of the Key Stages and, with continuity and progression, to facilitate the student's acquisition of the life skills and competences necessary for the world of work.

We aim to ensure that the individual student's needs, both now and in the future, are at the core of everything we are about as an educational establishment. We seek to do this by fostering a sound educational partnership between the College, parents and the wider community, a partnership which strengthens and secures the safe and caring educational experience afforded to our pupils and promotes not just their intellectual and academic development, but also their spiritual, emotional and physical growth/well-being.

Junior School Curriculum - Key Stage 3 (Years 8 - 10)

Year 8-10 pupils study the following subjects:

Learning for Life & Work	Personal Development	Home Economics	Local & Global Citizenship	Education for Employability
The Arts	Art & Design, Drama, Music	Modern Languages	French, Irish, Spanish*	
English	English	Physical Education	Physical Education	
Environment & Society	Geography, History	Science & Technology	Information Technology, Technology & Design, Science	
Mathematics including Financial Capability	Mathematics	Religious Education	Religious Education	

*In years 9 and 10, Information Technology is discontinued as a separate subject and pupils are introduced to Spanish as a third language.

Assessment at the end of KS3 is through the College Senior Entrance Examinations.

Key Stage 4

In years 11 and 12 all students study the following core subjects:

The Core Subjects:	Religious Studies English Mathematics PSHE/CEIAG PE (Non-exam)
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The core subjects are compulsory.

In addition, pupils choose six optional subjects from the following. They may also choose one subject from the Twilight provision menu.

Science:	Physics and/or Chemistry and/or Biology/or Double Award Science	Languages:	French Irish Spanish
Environment And Society:	History Geography Business Studies	Creative and Expressive:	Art & Design Music Drama PE (Exam)
Others:	Further Mathematics Computer Science English Literature Home Economics Information Studies Motor Vehicle Studies Technology and Design		
Twilight Provision*	BTEC First Award in Engineering (Single Award) BTEC First Award in Construction (Single Award) BTEC First Award in Creative Media Production (Single Award)		

* Subjects offered through Twilight provisional are additional to normal school timetabled subjects.

Assessment at the end of KS4 is through the GCSE Examinations.

Pupils will normally study nine subjects at GCSE level. If a student opts for Additional Maths then he will study this in addition to Ordinary Maths and consequently study ten subjects. As well as the optional subjects offered in the main timetable, students can study certain subjects in after school or twilight provision. This includes BTEC Media Studies, BTEC Engineering and BTEC Construction.

SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM

In year 13, students are offered a choice of three or four AS levels (or equivalents) from the categories below. In year 14 they will be expected to continue with at least three of the four subjects they have chosen to full A Level standard.

Year 13 students will also be given the option of studying certain Applied A Level and BTEC subjects which they may combine with traditional A Level studies. Applied A Level subjects on offer are Moving Image Arts, Business Studies, Environmental Technology, Health and Social Care, Media Studies and Travel & Tourism. BTEC Construction and BTEC Engineering are available as a Double Award qualification (equivalent to two A Levels) while BTEC Sports Studies is offered as a Single Award qualification (equivalent to one A Level).

GCE (A Level) Subjects		
Accounts	Government & Politics	Religious Studies
Art & Design	History	Sociology
Biology	Home Economics	Software Systems
Business Studies	ICT	Spanish
Chemistry	Irish	Technology and Design
English Literature	Mathematics	Theatre Studies
French	Music	
Further Maths	Physical Education	
Geography	Physics	

Applied GCE (A Level) Subjects
Business Studies
Environmental Technology
Health & Social Care
Media Studies
Moving Image Arts
Travel & Tourism

Vocational Qualifications
BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment
BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Engineering
BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Sport

All A level/BTEC students follow courses in:

- * Religious Education
- * Careers Education

They also have the opportunity to follow an enrichment programme including options such as First Aid, HE (Survival Cooking), Study Skills and PE.

The Sixth Form curriculum is designed to provide intensive academic/vocational specialised courses in recognised subject areas leading to the award of either AS/A Level and/or BTEC's. While the academic approach is very important, all teachers try to ensure that the aims and ethos of the College form a backdrop to the teaching of their specific subject. We encourage our sixth form students to be careful about the selection of their AS and/or BTEC subjects. Obviously GCSE results will play a pivotal role in any final decision, but we want intending A Level students to have a real enthusiasm for their subject. This will make it easier for students to become committed to their studies, to become independent learners and to take responsibility for their work.

CLASS GROUPS

Classes are un-streamed except for Mathematics classes which are grouped by ability in S1 and S2 (Years 11 and 12). In the Junior School, general subjects are taught in classes of around 28 pupils; specialist practical subjects throughout all year groups as per DENI guidelines.

HOMEWORK

In St. Colman's College, we believe that planned, relevant and frequent homework is of considerable importance in the educational development of the pupil. Homework will arise naturally from work done in class. It is important because not only does it reinforce and extend class activities, but also helps pupils to develop the skills of independent work. The College's Assessment, Recording and Reporting Policy sets out College policy and expectations regarding homework in greater detail. Homework may consist of project work, written work, research, learning homework etc., and pupils are encouraged to use homework diaries/iPads for recording purposes. Teachers may also use the diaries as a form of communication with parents, so the latter are requested to check diaries on a daily basis. Parental support and interest in their child's homework is welcomed and encouraged by the College.

REPORTS

Parents are informed of their son's progress during the year through written reports and through the annual Parent/Teacher meetings. If parents are concerned about their son's progress, they may contact the College office and arrange to meet the Form Teacher, Year Head or Principal/Vice-Principal.

The Annual Presentation of Prizes acknowledges the academic, sporting and personal achievements at key stages in the school life of our students.

The awarding of Prizes to GCSE and A Level students takes place at separate ceremonies.

Achievements throughout the Junior School (and in Years 11 and 12) are recognised at Year group assemblies where certificates and awards are distributed.

STUDY

Supervised study in either the Study Hall or the Library is provided for S3/S4 (lower and upper-sixth) pupils during free periods. The Study Hall is available again during the evening until 6.00 p.m. Library facilities are available to all pupils throughout the school day.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is an integral part of the teaching and learning process. The precise details of assessment arrangements are contained within the Whole School Policy on Assessment, Recording and Reporting. At subject department level, assessment is both formative and summative. Present assessment procedures include internal tests (currently five Assessment weeks per year* taking place in October, December [formal timetabled tests for all Year groups], February, April and June [timetabled internal tests for Juniors only; Seniors sit external Public Exams], orals/aurals, end-of-topic/unit tests, project work, written work, coursework etc. At the end of J3 (Year 10), pupils take a school based Senior Entrance exam, the results of which will help to determine the subject choices they make for GCSE.

* dates of each Assessment week are listed in school calendar.

NON STATUTORY PROVISION

St. Colman's College constantly seeks to develop the curriculum beyond the statutory minimum. In the Junior school, pupils take I.T. as a subject in J1 (Year 8) and this is replaced in J2/J3 (Years 9 and 10) with Spanish as a third language. All Junior pupils receive training in using the College's Library system. Many students avail of opportunities for individual music tuition. Students in all Year groups have the opportunity to study additional GCSE (or equivalent) subjects as part of the College's extra-curricular Twilight provision.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Opportunities are provided for pupils to participate in a wide range of extra curricular activities. These include:

Athletics	ICT Club
Basketball	Musicals

Biology / Chemistry / Physics Olympiads	Musical Feis
Business competitions	Orchestra & Choir
Charity Fundraising	Outdoor Pursuits Club
Coursework Clubs	Quizzes
Debating Society	Revision Clubs
Drama Club	School Trips
Language Club	Science Club
Gaelic Football	Ski Trips
Golf Society	STEM Competitions
Handball	Technology Club
Hurling	Traditional Irish Music
Irish Public Speaking	