



St Ambrose College Curriculum Intent Statement

“In your Catholic schools, there is always a bigger picture over and above the individual subjects you study, the different skills you learn. All the work you do is placed in the context of growing in friendship with God, and all that flows from that friendship. So you learn not just to be good students, but good citizens, good people. As you move higher up the school, you have to make choices regarding the subjects you study, you begin to specialize with a view to what you are going to do later on in life. That is right and proper. But always remember that every subject you study is part of a bigger picture. Never allow yourselves to become narrow. The world needs good scientists, but a scientific outlook becomes dangerously narrow if it ignores the religious or ethical dimension of life, just as religion becomes narrow if it rejects the legitimate contribution of science to our understanding of the world. We need good historians and philosophers and economists, but if the account they give of human life within their particular field is too narrowly focused, they can lead us seriously astray.”

(Pope Benedict in his address to students at Twickenham in 2010)

“As you know, the task of a teacher is not simply to impart information or to provide training in skills intended to deliver some economic benefit to society; education is not and must never be considered as purely utilitarian. It is about forming the human person, equipping him or her to live life to the full.”

(Pope Benedict in his address to teachers at Twickenham in 2010)

St Ambrose College Mission Statement

Saint Ambrose College will follow the example of Blessed Edmund Rice and his vision for education as laid out in The Eight Essentials.

As such, we will provide a rounded, Catholic education enabling all boys to grow in faith and reach their full potential in all that they undertake.

The College will develop students to be very well educated, disciplined, compassionate and empowered young men who strive for excellence and justice in all that they do.

With the Gospels and the spirit of Blessed Edmund at the heart of what we do, staff, students, and families will combine to produce resourceful and resilient Ambrosians, equipped to make a positive impact in the modern world.

Curriculum Intent Statement

Our school Mission Statement sets out our vision to provide all students at St Ambrose College with a rounded, holistic, Catholic education that will enable them to make a positive impact in the modern world. Not only does this resonate with the words of Pope Benedict at Twickenham in 2010

but also with the aspirations of Blessed Edmund Rice when he opened schools and the views of some of the saints adopted by our House System. For example, Saint John Henry Newman stated that each of us was created 'To do God some definite service that nobody else was created to do'. We aim to develop individual skills and talents so that our students can use them for the betterment of society, understanding their roles as global citizens and faithful stewards of God's created world. In addition, St Thomas Aquinas stressed the importance of turning 'potential in to actual' and St Ignatius, whose work had a huge impact on Blessed Edmund Rice reminded that all aspects of what we do should contain "God in all things." Edmund Rice had noted that the time devoted to religious instruction was the most important part of the curriculum he offered to boys in his first schools. At St Ambrose College, this idea of "God in all things" is central to our curriculum. We want our students to ask, "What more can I do?" in seeking to make others aware of the greater glory of God.

We aim to provide a broad, ambitious and varied curriculum which is accessible to and challenging for all students and which offers them a pathway for the next stage of their education, and for undertaking their chosen career in the future. We aim to develop ambitious content throughout the curriculum to quench the thirst of able and enquiring critical thinkers.

Beyond the classroom, we strive to provide opportunities to further develop the whole person, recognising that each individual has skills and interests which should be nurtured, supported and celebrated. It is an expectation at St Ambrose College that students participate in the enrichment opportunities on offer. Not only do they complement the curriculum, but allow the students to grow spiritually, personally, pastorally and socially.

Our ambition is that every student leaves St Ambrose College with the qualifications, skills, knowledge and character to access aspirational pathways/opportunities and to lead a life that includes positive relationships, resilience, strong mental health and financial independence.

Implementation of the curriculum vision

Our vision is brought to fruition in the following ways:

- Religious Education at the core of the curriculum. At all key stages 3 and 4, student timetables have at least 10% given to RE and there is also overlap with elements of the PSHCE/RSE programme. At Key Stage 5, 5% of the timetabled curriculum is given to General RE and again there is fortnightly PSHCE/RSE.
- Students are expected to pray at the beginning of each lesson as a reminder that working to serve God through the development of our knowledge and skills permeates the entire curriculum.
- Understanding of the 'definite service' asked for them is supported through the careers education/provision with the aim of students seeing and retaining Catholic values in whatever they choose to undertake.
- At key stage 4, students take 10 GCSEs and have 'free choice' on at least 2 to ensure that they don't become narrow. All key stage 3 subjects are offered at Key Stage 4.
- However, the EBacc is still accessible for everyone and the curriculum model has been modified to ensure that students take a Modern Foreign Language at Key Stage 4 from 2023/24. We believe that is important for all students to be able to speak a second language, regardless of EBacc requirements.

- Where demand allows and capacity exists, all Key Stage 4 subjects are offered at Key Stage 5 as well as new subjects which benefit students with their future aspirations e.g. Politics, Business Studies, Economics and Psychology.
- All students cover the expected national curriculum at Key Stage 3. This is their entitlement.
- The Key Stage 5 curriculum is designed in order to provide a full range of opportunities outside of their A level lessons. For example, Wednesday afternoon Activities allows a variety of sporting opportunities as well as bespoke sessions to support aspiring Medics and Oxbridge applications. Students taking a subject with substantial mathematical content but do NOT take A level Maths study Core Maths and other students have the opportunity of undertaking the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).
- Ensuring that the curriculum is coherently planned and sequenced. This enables students to develop and build on prior knowledge and skills.
- Adapt the curriculum for pupils with SEND so that it remains accessible, ambitious and develops their fluency and independence. We believe that all our students should have equal opportunity to access our curriculum and subsequently have specific, targeted support and intervention in place for those who are disadvantaged/in receipt of Pupil Premium.
- High quality PSHCE is part of the timetable model and delivered by a team of specialists. The PSCHE content has been mapped across statutory requirements as well as RSE requirements (using TenTen resources/materials). The content is age appropriate and flexible to deal with issues affecting young men and/or what would benefit their personal development and society at a particular time.
- Support students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development as well as their physical development, encouraging them to take responsibility for their own health.
- Having issues relating to the Equality Act on the School Improvement Plan and addressed through the curriculum, remembering that we are all created in God's image and should be afforded opportunity to grow in to His likeness.

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

"The will of God be done in this and everything we undertake." (Blessed Edmund Rice)