



Values  
and Ethos

2015-  
16

‘Striving to live the Gospel, promoting excellence and achievement for all and nurturing partnerships.’

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

As a Catholic school we intend to put Jesus Christ at the centre of everything we do.

*'I have come that they have life and have it to the full' John 10:10*

Therefore we will strive:

- To live the Gospel.
- To promote excellence and achievement for all.
- To nurture partnerships.

This will be done by;

- proclaiming and living out the faith of the Catholic Church, supporting each other in the shared endeavours of teaching and learning, prayer, worship and charitable works,
- promoting and practising just and caring attitudes and actions towards all persons,
- respecting the unique value of each individual and seeking therefore to respond to the talents and needs of all its members in an environment of praise and celebration, nurturing self-esteem and mutual encouragement,
- ensuring that the most effective opportunities for the education of Pupils are established in all areas of the curriculum,
- pursuing the highest Standards in all we do and by constantly seeking improvements,
- developing and maintaining close co-operation with the Parents who entrust their children to us, with the parishes who also seek the spiritual and religious formation of our young people, with our local associated schools and colleges and with the wider community.

16. It is maintained by Stockport Local Education Authority and is under the trusteeship of the Diocese of Shrewsbury.

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- **to promote excellence and achievement for all**
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Harrytown is first and foremost a Catholic School, where great emphasis is placed on developing each child to his or her full potential. We celebrated our centenary in 2013 and are very proud of our long tradition of delivering a high quality Catholic education for the community whom we serve.

Harrytown offers pupils and their families a Catholic education in a caring and orderly community where we always try to live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our daily lives. We aim to know and value our pupils as individuals and to help everyone to develop their gifts and talents through a well-balanced, forward looking curriculum supported by traditional values of hard work and cooperative behaviour.

Examination results are consistently good and the majority of our pupils take 9 or 10 GCSEs at the end of Year 11. The school has very strong links with the excellent Aquinas College

which, as our local Catholic sixth form provider is where the vast majority of our pupils go after completing their GCSEs with us. The school enjoys excellent working relationships and partnerships with other local primary and high schools and we are committed to working with Stockport local authority, our diocese and our family of diocesan schools. Extracurricular opportunities include sports activities, musical events, field trips, retreats, foreign visits and holidays. We are keen to develop the “whole person” by encouraging a culture of high aspiration, initiative development, self-confidence and active involvement in charity work.

There are opportunities for pupils of all ages to take on additional responsibilities through a range of activities such as the school council, pupil leadership team, youth SVP and sports leaders programmes – to name but a few. At Harrytown the pursuit of personal achievement is combined with an emphasis on the importance of working with and for others, especially those in need.

### **General Introduction**

Founded in 1913 as an independent convent grammar school, in 1978 Harrytown Catholic High School became an 11-16 mixed comprehensive school.

There are currently c.780 pupils on the school roll and the current community which we serve is drawn mainly from seven associated parishes and their primary schools. There is a determination to maintain and where possible extend our close links with this supporting community. Through our mission statement we are strongly committed to living the Gospel, pursuing achievement for all and nurturing partnerships. There is a tradition of active worship, community service and active involvement in fund-raising for charities. We are always keen to appoint staff who can assist with, and support our range of extra-curricular programmes and bring their expertise and interests to bear on extending this provision further. The school was designated a specialist science college and despite the demise of specialist schools programme we retain a strong link to science through the activities on offer within a large successful science department.

### **Our Curriculum**

The academic structure of the school is based upon subject departments, which are encouraged to work co-operatively. Subject Leaders and senior staff meet regularly to discuss, evaluate, monitor and plan – with improvement in pupil outcomes and achievements being at the heart of all these processes. There is a published calendar of meetings whereby improvements and developments in learning and teaching are considered along with aspects of curriculum and staff development. Our staff are kept informed about day to day issues through a daily briefing before school each morning except Fridays when Holy Mass is offered in our Centenary chapel before school and briefing only takes place via email on this day. A number of working parties have been formed, as the need has arisen, to discuss particular areas of focus or importance.

Our curriculum offer across Years 7-9 is both broad and balanced and in Year 7 most subjects are taught in mixed-ability groups, the school has recently moved to a system where more subjects can be set with regard to academic ability in years 7, 8 and 9. The key stage 4 curriculum again is broad and balanced and the school arranges both year 10 and 11 into two populations where setting takes place as appropriate for each student's ability. There

are a number of subjects which appear in the key stage 4 curriculum which are in addition to those offered at key stage 3.

Learning Support is provided as required in small groups for pupils withdrawn from other lessons for specific work/ diagnosed needs or as “in class” support. The school has a robust programme of interventions to further support the learning and development of our pupils and we use regular checks of performance and pastoral data to direct our efforts to the areas of greatest need.

All pupils in key stage 3 (Years 7-9) are given experience in Music, Art, History, Geography, Citizenship/Ethics for Life, Design Technology subjects and at least one Modern Language and they develop their ICT/computing skills through a combination of discrete lessons and cross-curricular provision. The core curriculum comprises Religious Education, Mathematics, English, Science and Physical Education.

In Years 10 and 11 optional subjects are available. A core of Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education, Ethics for Life and ICT remains compulsory for all pupils. A guided choice is made from the option subjects to ensure that all pupils follow a suitable and balanced combination of subjects. The school currently offers pupils a choice from 4 options pools with one choice being restricted to either IT/computing or a modern language.

We are continually considering further modifications to the curriculum which we offer in the light of proposals and changes in policy which come from our political leaders. The school operates on a fortnightly 50 period (1 hour) cycle.

### **Our Examination Results**

The summer examination results in 2014 saw the school achieve results with 62% of pupils achieving 5 A\*-C passes including English and Maths and 96% achieving 5 or more passes at A\*-C. The school has, in recent years, featured in the *Daily Telegraph* and *The Times Good Schools Guides* and in *The Observer's* list of the country's top 100 state schools. We were inspected by Ofsted in 2011 and the school was judged to be good with many outstanding features and most recently in January 2015 under the new framework where we were judged as requiring improvement. A Section 48 Inspection undertaken by the diocese in 2011 judged the school to be outstanding.

### **Pastoral Care**

The pastoral system is designed to complement and support the academic work of the school and promote the welfare and support of all pupils. Form classes are arranged in mixed-ability groupings. The Heads of Year are supported at each key stage by a pastoral manager (who does not have a teaching commitment), a Head of Key Stage and of course by the Senior Leadership Team. Heads of Year and Form Tutors progress through the school with their Year and form group although we do have static Pupil Progress managers in Year 7 and 11 in order to more efficiently manage the crucial stages of transition. In addition the school has the support of the Stockport Behaviour Support Team, a professional counsellor, learning mentors, school nurse and a Lay Chaplain. All teaching staff are required to contribute to the pastoral care of the pupils in all their dealings with pupils and to undertake, as requested, specific duties within and in support of the form-tutor system. **These duties are as important as subject responsibilities.** Contact with

parents is well established and encouraged as we believe this relationship is in the best interest of the pupils and the school.

The Friends of Harrytown is a supportive association of parents and friends which organises social and fund-raising events and is active in its financial support for the school. Relations with parents are good and Parents' Evenings are held at least annually for all the year groups.

### **Accommodation**

The school comprises of six buildings, the main building (Ampere) housing Maths, English, Science, RE, Citizenship/Ethics for Life and Special Educational Needs facilities and the newly built centenary Chapel. In addition there are also a number of offices and one ICT suite.

The Boyle building is a separate building and houses the library which comprises the more traditional books and printed resources and two bookable computer suites.

The Curie building contains the Food Technology Room and a computer suite.

The Dalton building houses the PE sports hall, changing rooms and PE office.

The Einstein building houses the dining hall, music, music technology and drama. The Faraday Building contains History and Geography, and finally The Galileo building is home to Art, Technology, ICT and Foreign Languages.

There are six well equipped and resourced science laboratories, three specialised Design Technology rooms, a

Music/Drama area, Hall and stage, sports hall, seven computer suites and a Library. There are an additional 22 general classrooms about half of which have been refurbished in the last few years. Our computer network provides for the use of information technology in all part of the buildings and we have wireless network connectivity in most areas of the school. Our recently constructed Chapel is now the focal point for school life and assemblies and services are held weekly. There are playing fields and tennis courts adjacent to the school, and a wooded area suitable for environmental studies within the school grounds.