

Teaching at St Bernard's

Our Catholic ethos and school motto, *to work is to pray*, is at the heart of our teaching philosophy. We have two fundamental expectations at St Bernard's which all our pupils will be able to tell you. We expect pupils to be kind and to work hard. Our teacher's model these two expectations in all that they do.

The pastoral care that our young people receive is centred around our House system, where all our young people and staff belong to one of our three Houses. Our family within a family approach ensures that we meet the needs of our families and our local community.

We have three lessons a day which are each 95 minutes in length. This serves to reduce cognitive load, to reduce loss of learning time and to give pupils the time in the classroom to really explore their subjects. This slows down the frantic pace which sometimes comes with a five or six period day. It allows us to get to know our pupils and promote depth of understanding.

In addition to our three lessons of formal teaching each day, we have Personal Development time, where our young people spend 30 minutes with their Form Tutors. This time is valuable to the development of our young people. Those in lower school spend the majority of this time participating in our Literary Canon, which is our lower school reading programme. Those in upper school use this time for PSHE, Careers and study skills.

Our Literary Canon is designed to inspire a love of reading and literature in our young people. Our Canon is a set of 15 novels which we



believe that all pupils should read in their first three years at St Bernard's. Each Form Group in lower school spends approximately two hours per week reading along with their Form Tutor.

Our feedback policy is devolved to each Head of Department so that they are able to choose how they feedback to pupils in a way which is most constructive to their subject. This also allows them to be mindful of the workload which they are placing on the members of their team whilst still ensuring that pupils get the feedback they need to make excellent progress.

Positive Learning drives our approach to behaviour management. Positive Learning is about personal development, with a focus on individual learners and their ability to develop the kinds of behaviour and skills that will allow them to respond effectively to the ever-changing world in which they live. Positive Learning is the fulcrum for all teaching and learning within St Bernard's and involves a commitment to developing the following attributes in pupils: respect, responsibility, resilience and self-reflection.

We recognise that for our young people to be successful, our teachers have to continually develop both what we teach and how we teach it. Our focus for CPD is therefore centered around how each department curates their curriculum and stays at the forefront of pedagogical developments.

St Bernard's is more than just a school, our faith and values bind us together, we are a family. Christ taught us to love our children, as a member of staff at St Bernard's you will be the glue that holds together our family and allows our young people to grow and flourish. Teachers at St Bernard's are more than just teachers, they are the light that guides our young people.

