



St Mary's Catholic School

Physical Education Department

The department consists of a sports hall, activity studio, fitness suite, 4 tennis courts, and a large playing field to the rear of the school.

There are currently five full time members of staff in the department, with a Head of Department and a deputy. Two members of the PE staff also teach Computer Science.

Physical
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Department



Students are set by ability. Boys and girls are taught separately at KS3 and KS4. Class ratios in KS3 and KS4 are approximately 1 – 30.

There are currently 3 classes studying for qualifications in sport; a large mixed Year 10 GCSE PE group and a smaller Year 10 BTEC Sport group. There is also one A-Level class in Year 13.

Schemes of work for all Key Stages are uniformly followed and resources are shared throughout the department. There are comprehensive schemes of work and resources for all topics covered. Each scheme of work provides for structured learning and regular assessment. Students are encouraged to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding of PE using varied approaches to learning.

Key Stage 3 provision is currently 4 x 1 hour lessons per 2-week cycle. In Y7 students take part in a range of activities including; gymnastics, problem solving, invasion games, rugby, netball, badminton, athletics, orienteering, handball, striking and fielding games. In Y8/9 students take the following sports further with the view to developing their skills in more challenging environments ; gymnastics, orienteering, rugby, netball, badminton, athletics, orienteering, handball, sports acrobatics, football, rounders and cricket. At the end of each activity students complete an end of unit assessment.

Key Stage 4 provision for Year 11 is currently 2 x 1 hour lessons per 2-week cycle for NC PE.

In GCSE PE, students follow the AQA syllabus with 4/5 lessons per cycle. The topics that are studied include, applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training, sport psychology, socio-cultural influences, and health, fitness and well-being. Students sit 2 summer examinations; each paper is 1 hr 15mins and accounts for 60% of the total mark. Students also complete 4 controlled assessments worth 40% of the mark. Assessment throughout the course is on-going with students sitting a mock exam in Y10 and two in Y11 with grades reported home.

In addition students can also choose to study BTEC Tech Award in Sport. Students follow the Edexcel syllabus. Example topics covered include; Understanding the body and the supporting technology for sport (internal assessment), the principles of training, nutrition, psychology for sport and activity (external assessment), and applying the principles of sport and activity (synoptic assessment).

Key Stage 5 provision is currently 9 x 1 hour lessons per 2-week cycle per subject. The department offers both AS and A2 level Physical Education. We follow the OCR syllabus covering the following modules; Physiological factors affecting performance, Psychological factors affecting performance and Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport. Students sit 3 exams at the end of Y13, one two hour written paper and two 1 hour papers which makes up 60% of the mark and with the other 40% from students' practical performance. Assessment is on-going with students sitting mock exams in Y12 and Y13 with grades reported home. All students in Key Stage 5 also take part in recreational PE. Students are offered a 1 x 2 hour lesson per 2-week cycle to take part in a range of enriching opportunities both on-site and off-site such as table tennis, badminton, climbing, ice-skating and orienteering.

Student Achievement –

- 35% of GCSE PE students achieved at least a grade 7 in 2019, well above the national average of 20%
- 76% of GCSE PE students achieved at least a grade 5 in 2019, well above the national average of 56%
- 80% of Level 2 BTEC Sport students achieved at least a Merit in 2019
- 84% of A Level PE students achieved a grade A*-C over the past 4 years and 55% A*-B