

ST MARGARET'S PREP



ST MARY'S CALNE

**Curriculum
– Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4, Key Stage 5
Policy**

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Curriculum

The total number of teaching periods in the week is 33. Each lesson is 1 hour long. All pupils are instructed in Physical Education and follow a course in Personal Development (covering SMSC, RSE, Careers, etc).

Fourth Form Curriculum: Key Stage Three

In Years 7, 8 and 9 (LIV, MIV and UIV Form), pupils experience a balanced curriculum which broadly follows the guidelines of the National Curriculum. They are taught mainly in their Form groups, with setting across the year in Mathematics, MFLs and Latin. Particular care is taken with the integration of the new pupils who join in Year 9 (UIV Form); after an initial period of teaching in Mathematics, a common assessment is carried out across the year before the girls are placed in their appropriate groups. All sets are kept under review on a regular basis.

Pupils study a choice of French or Spanish and are introduced to Latin and Mandarin Chinese in Year 7 (LIV Form). German is an option in Year 8 (MIV Form), where most pupils study two languages and some may decide to study Classical Civilisation instead of Latin. Pupils have the option to study Classical Greek in Year 9 (UIV Form).

Computing is a timetabled lesson. Pupils follow a course in Critical Thinking from Year 7 (LIV Form). Three Academic Enrichment Weeks are spread throughout the year to offer the opportunity for deep thinking and learning with a thematic and cross-curricular approach.

Year 7 and 8 (LIV and MIV Forms) follow a flexible programme on Friday afternoons (known as 'Flexible Fridays'). This comprises: Critical Thinking and the St Mary's Challenge and Adventure Scheme (CAA). The CAA programme is preparation for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award which many pupils go on to take up in the UIV Form.

Fifth Form Curriculum: Key Stage Four (I/GCSEs)

All Year 10 and Year 11 (LV and UV Form) pupils follow a core curriculum comprising English Language, English Literature, a Modern Foreign Language, Mathematics and Triple Award Science (although some pupils take Double Award Science). Full or Short Course Religious Studies is taken by all pupils.

Digital literacy lessons are taught to pupils not studying Computer Science GCSE in six-week rotations, delivering a range of IT productivity skills, eSafety and covering the emerging use of GenAI in education.

Most pupils choose three option subjects from the following: Art, Drama, Geography, Classical Civilisation, Classical Greek, History, Latin, Music, Computer Science, and a second MFL (from French, German, Mandarin or Spanish). All of these courses lead to an externally accredited qualification of either a GCSE or IGCSE.

Pupils are set for Modern Foreign Languages, Latin, Mathematics and the Sciences.

Sixth Form: Key Stage Five (A Levels)

All pupils must take part in two hours of Physical Education per week. There are no other core subjects in order to allow more time for pupils to pursue and develop their wider reading, personal development and research. All pupils attend the school's Sixth Form Lecture Programme as part of their enrichment activities. Many also choose to pursue the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Year 12 (LVI Form): Most pupils study three A Levels, Donaldson Electives and have the option to pick a course from the Supra Curriculum. Donaldson are short courses running throughout the year on a range of subjects designed to complement their A Level studies. Pupils also follow our bespoke Futures Programme, which helps prepare students for life beyond St Mary's Calne. This comprises elements of Personal Development, Careers guidance and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). All pupils start an EPQ with a large proportion submitting it in either the first or second year of Sixth Form to receive a formal graded qualification.

Subjects at A Level: Academic subjects are most often taught by two teachers sharing the six hours allocated per subject. If any subject group at either level consists of three girls or fewer, the normal expectation is that the teaching delivery will be via five hours per week.

Subject choices are: Art, Biology, Chemistry, Classical Civilisation, Computer Science, Drama, Economics, English Literature, French, Further Mathematics, Geography, German, Politics, Ancient Greek, History, History of Art, Latin, Mandarin, Mathematics, Music, Physical Education, Physics, Psychology, Religious Studies and Spanish.

Supra Curriculum: The opportunities available in the Supra Curriculum include: EPQ, GCSE Photography, GCSE Italian, Mandarin for beginners, or AS Level Mathematics.

The amount of Private Study time will vary according to the number of options studied.