



Academic Policy

St Aloysius' College

This policy sets out the principles on which learning and teaching at St Aloysius' College are based. These principles apply to all year groups, from Kindergarten to S6. The policy is by its very nature aspirational and it is taken for granted that whilst some of its principles and goals are embedded in our curriculum and practice there will be others that are embryonic.

The policy draws its inspiration from Jesuit principles of education, in particular *The Characteristics of Jesuit Education* (1987), and from *Curriculum for Excellence*. These two sources complement each other well and should not be seen as contradictory or a source of tension. The third paragraph of our mission statement illustrates this point.

'We want every pupil to become a successful life-long learner, to develop his or her God-given talents to the full and in so doing appreciate that God can be found in all things.'

To achieve this, our pupils need to:

experience a curriculum that is encouraging, challenging, relevant and appropriate to individual needs (personalisation) and which allows them to develop their God-given talents to the full;

participate actively in their own learning including the ability to learn as a member of a group or team;

develop the necessary habits, skills and attitudes, including self-evaluation and reflection, in order to become life-long learners;

be engaged in the learning process through imaginative, creative, and well organised teaching that encourages enthusiasm, a sense of purpose and hard work, that provides helpful guidance, based on the principles of Assessment is for Learning, on how to improve and which enables good progress to be made;

study in depth (non multa, sed multum- para 161 of *Characteristics*, originally from the *Ratio Studiorum* 1599) so as to begin to understand and enjoy academic study and develop a sense of intellectual curiosity together with the ability to solve problems, and apply ideas and skills to new situations;

develop precision and confidence in written and oral expression, and the use of number, both within and across disciplines, and be able to present a convincing argument that demonstrates analysis, precision, critical thinking, creativity and eloquence;

assess critically the mass media and issues such as the credibility of sources, the values expressed or promoted, bias and distortion;

use technology as a means of acquiring, creating and processing information to support collaboration, communication and problem solving;

appreciate that learning can help us both to find God and become a better person (pietas), who is more aware of the needs of others, has an appreciation of beauty, culture and of one's heritage, who can begin to understand the complexities of the world including the need for stewardship of the earth's resources;

be willing and able to put the skills, knowledge and experiences that they have acquired at the service of 'the greater glory of God and the common good', (*non nobis solum nati sumus*, "we are not born for ourselves alone," Cicero, *de officiis*).

Policy Owner: Frank Reilly

Policy updated: January 2015

This policy will be annually reviewed by: Frank Reilly