



## **The Local Offer at Maria Fidelis Catholic School FCJ**

### **Leadership, Management and Governance**

*Q. How well will the school support my child's academic achievement?*

A. Your child's progress will be monitored regularly and this will be recorded each half term after the formal assessments which take place in each subject. Any pupil who falls behind his or her targets will be placed into our booster classes which reinforce the work going on in lessons.

*Q. Who is keeping an eye on my child's experience in this school?*

A. Your child will be supported by the staff in the SEND department who will make regular checks on academic progress. Each year group also has a student support officer (SSO) who ensures that each child is happy in school and that pastoral issues are dealt with swiftly.

### **Developing the Skills, Knowledge and Expertise of school staff**

*Q. Do teachers have a good understanding about how to teach a child with autism/dyslexia/dyscalculia or speech and language difficulties?*

A. Yes. We have staff who are trained to offer appropriate support in many different areas of learning needs. Staff at the school have training with professional agencies to ensure support offered is current and can be personalised to meet individual student needs.

### **Engagement with Specialist Services and Teams**

*Q. What services are available to help my child to learn and make progress?*

A. We work closely with educational psychologists, speech and language therapists, counsellors and the Catholic Children's Society to ensure that we meet the needs of all children at the school

### **Identification and Assessment**

*Q. How effectively does the school identify particular learning and communication needs?*

- A. The school liaises with primary schools to find out what difficulties pupils may have before they arrive at Maria Fidelis. The students will also sit a reading and writing test when they start at the school which will show areas where support may be required. Once at the school, pupils are regularly monitored by staff to check for any additional needs they may have.

### **Teaching, Curriculum and Support**

*Q. How does Maria Fidelis adapt the curriculum to meet the needs of all its pupils?*

- A. We check the progress of each pupil in the school and provide one-to-one and small group support for pupils who may find certain topics difficult. With the results of assessments and close consultation with staff members we are also able to differentiate lessons to enable pupils to access the curriculum and achieve success.

*Q. Does Maria Fidelis have a plan for my child? Can I help with reviews?*

- A. Parents and children are central to the review process. We meet with parents as often as we can and value their input.

*Q. If my child is falling behind, what sort of help is there?*

- A. We run booster classes for pupils from Year 7 to Year 11. These are aimed at any pupil who is not meeting his or her target in school and each pupil's progress is reviewed termly. Pupils who improve their progress have the opportunity to come out of booster sessions at the end of each term.

*Q. Are TAs trained and able to help my child with reading difficulties?*

- A. Yes. Our subject specialist TAs have all received training which enables them to support reading needs.

### **The physical environment and specialist equipment and resources for pupils**

*Q. How does Maria Fidelis make sure my child is making progress?*

- A. Monitoring assessments are undertaken half termly and every child's progress is assessed by the subject teacher. Children who fall behind are put into booster classes in order to help them make at least the level of progress expected of them.

*Q. What resources/strategies are in place to support children's education?*

- A. We have a range of interventions, which are put in place to support our pupils. These include booster classes, homework and handwriting clubs, small group work and one to one sessions with subject specialist staff.

### **Partnership with parents/carers**

*Q. How does Maria Fidelis work with parents?*

A. Key to our success is the relationship we build and maintain with parents. We communicate regularly with parents to keep them informed about their child's progress and we also use structured conversations and parents evenings to inform parents about how their child is getting on in school and discuss how support can be tailored if necessary.

*Q. Who do I contact if I have a concern about my child's progress?*

A. Each year group has a student support officer (SSO) who is responsible for monitoring the academic progress and ensuring the pastoral welfare of each child. This person would be your first port of call if you have any concern about your child. In most cases, the SSO will be able to deal with the matter swiftly and effectively. If your concern is specifically about SEND provision at the school, then you would contact Belinda Shaw, SENDCO.

### **Listening and responding to children and young people and their involvement in the full life of the school**

*Q. How does Maria Fidelis help pupils have a say in the direction and ethos of the school?*

A. The house system is used as a vehicle for pupils to make themselves heard. We also make good use of class discussions and themed days so that pupils have plenty of opportunity to give their input into the direction of the school.

### **Transitions between phases of education and into adult life**

*Q. What does Maria Fidelis do to help new pupils settle in?*

A. We place the students in a form group and use a buddy system which pairs students together and helps create friendship groups. We also make regular checks on all new pupils to ensure that they are happy in school.

*Q. How does Maria Fidelis support pupils who are preparing for higher education or work?*

A. We use themed days to help prepare our pupils for life after school and this begins in Year 7. These days cover career options, decisions about education and life at university. As pupils progress through the school we set up meetings with careers advisors and school staff to help them make more informed choices about their future.

### **Support for emotional, personal and social development**

*Q. How can I be sure that my child will be happy at Maria Fidelis?*

A. Being happy at school invariably is the most important wish for parents and children. It is our wish, too, that all children are happy at school and we strive tirelessly to make sure that, whilst maintaining good discipline and order, all our pupils are happy at school. There are a number of people who are always available to talk to and we are proud of the strong relationships we have with parents to ensure that we work together for the benefit of each child.

*Q. How does Maria Fidelis support children who are experiencing difficulties at home or outside school?*

A. We offer support and guidance for any pupil who may be experiencing difficulties either in or out of school. We also use counsellors from the Catholic Children's Society and Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) to provide additional support for children and their families.

### **Safety and positive behaviour**

*Q. How would Maria Fidelis make sure my child is safe?*

A. The school gate is staffed at the beginning and end of each school day in order to ensure that this is a safe environment for pupils. Staff are given regular training on safeguarding issues and e-safety training is also provided for both pupils and parents. We have a zero-tolerance approach to bullying and we take immediate action as soon as any incidence of bullying is reported to us.

*Q. What does Maria Fidelis do to encourage and reward positive behaviour?*

A. The school operates a merit system which rewards good behaviour each half term and provides a significant rewards day at the end of each term. The system is specifically designed to include all pupils, especially those who may get overlooked because they quietly get on and do everything they are supposed to each day. We also have a house system which encourages pupils to engage with our enrichment programme and rewards those who take part in a wide range of different activities to cater for different interests.

### **Attendance**

*Q. How does Maria Fidelis monitor attendance?*

A. Attendance is checked every day by the SSO and parents are contacted as soon as we identify a child as not being in school. The school will arrange to meet with parents whose pupils have poor attendance to look at ways of ensuring that all children are school.

*Q. What does Maria Fidelis do to help pupils who are disaffected?*

A. We communicate regularly with all our pupils to check that they are happy. Our thorough approach to pastoral support helps pupils who may be experiencing difficulties either in or out of school. We also use the house system to help motivate pupils and this can provide pupils with the opportunity to excel in a range of areas not covered by the formal curriculum.