



St Paul's Catholic School Milton Keynes – Statement on school background. (September 2022)

- Policies or processes used for predicting grades:-

Predicted grades are normally determined through a range of methodology so we can triangulate key sources of information about students. Internal assessments are set throughout year 12 as well as formal internal examinations in June. Students are also set target grades based on a KS4 baseline which inform but don't dictate UCAS predictions.

Our qualification provision:-

- Our inclusivity as a Sixth Form means we offer a range of Academic and Vocational Programmes and encourages students to follow a blended Academic and Vocational pathway if this will facilitate their opportunities for progression (including to university). Most of our vocational learners progress to university. We also offer GCSE retake and will allow access to a range of Level 3 programmes even if the Grade 4 has not been secured in either/or English and Maths at GCSE. We do not offer AS levels in any of our Academic Subjects: this is a school wide policy underpinned by pedagogical decisions (not cost).

- Other background information on the context of the school:-
- St. Paul's is a larger than average 11-18 mixed secondary school (1942 pupils in September 2022) with a very large Post 16 provision of 415 students.

St. Paul's is a fully inclusive school with three Special Needs Departments for Hearing Impaired, Visually Impaired and ASD pupils. In 2021 the percentage of pupils with SEN Support was above the national average at 14% (national: 10.8%). In 2021 the percentage of pupils with a Statement or EHCP was well above the average at 3.3% (national: 1.7%).

Our historical School Deprivation Factor is above national. ASP now indicates that the school location deprivation indicator was quintile 5 (most deprived) of all schools. The pupil base is in quintile 4 (more deprived). The Free School Meals percentage is 27% (Ever 6 FSM) in 2021 (national 27%). Pupils come from wards amongst the most deprived wards in the country. The school has a pupil premium and catch up premium budget of £423,00.00

The percentage of EAL pupils at St. Paul's is 56% in 2021 (National 17). In October 2016 there were 62 first languages spoken at St. Paul's, other than English.

The percentage of pupils from Minority Ethnic Groups has increased from 35% in 2005 to 69% in 2017.

St Paul's Catholic School Milton Keynes – Statement on impact of Covid 19 (September 2022)

- The amount of teaching time that was lost overall, and the alternative provision for remote education that was delivered to students:-

The school was closed to the majority of students from March 20th to September 3rd 2020, for a week in November 2020 and from January to March 8th 2021. The city of Milton Keynes and surrounding areas had a significantly high infection rate in the early stages of the pandemic, has since broadly mirrored the situation in London and the school community has suffered Covid related deaths.

From March to June 2020 a full curriculum was offered online, although there was very little live teaching. In the initial weeks our learning platform had significant performance issues and although we then saw generally high levels of engagement with the platform; completion rates were significantly lower. During the 2021 lockdown more live teaching was undertaken and again although we saw engagement with the online platform completion rates among Year 12 were significantly lower.

- Disruption to our normal university application processes:-

This cohort of students have not gone through the same university application processes as previous years due to the pandemic. The school was unable to run as many visits to university open days or hold our Work related Learning Day (which supported students' choices of courses) or as many in person Parents' Evenings. We have a large proportion of students who are the first family member to apply to a UK University and so we usually provide aspirational support and guidance. Virtual delivery of this has not had the same take up.

- The impact on the information used to determine predicted grades:-

Covid 19 has also had an impact on our normal processes used to determine predicted grades. Although internal exams took place in June 2022, departments were instructed to give additional guidance and support to students as they were especially anxious after a long period of remote learning and the cancellation of their actual GCSE exams.

Predicted grades have therefore been based more on learning time during the Autumn and Summer term and target grades based on KS4 data.