

SBC/ET
September 2018

GENERAL INFORMATION

St. Leonard's School is a mixed Catholic academy with 1394 pupils aged 11 to 18 years with approximately 240 in the Sixth Form, situated on the edge of Durham City centre. Newcastle and the Teesside conurbation are within easy reach. Founded in 1936, it became a secondary modern school in the 1960s, and was reorganised as a comprehensive school in 1970. About 70% of the pupils are drawn from ten Roman Catholic primary schools within the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. The catchment area is large, extending up to fifteen miles radius from the school. The governing body's admissions policy allows non-Catholic pupils, from families who support our ethos, to enter the school if there are places available.

The ability range of the school is fully comprehensive but the average attainment of Year 7 pupils on entry is slightly above the national average.

We work in close partnerships with:

- Feeder Primary Schools
- Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle
- Partnership Catholic Secondary schools
- Durham Schools
- Durham Local Authority
- Universities of Durham, Sunderland and Newcastle
- Local education and business links

OFSTED last inspected the school in May 2012, judging it as "Good".

"St Leonard's is a good school that provides well for its pupils. The great majority of students achieve well in most of their subjects... The mature attitudes, resilience and application of most students contribute significantly to their good learning."

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle also inspected the school in November 2017 under Section 48 of the Education Act:

"St Leonard's is an outstanding school. All members of the school community contribute to the fulfilling of their mission statement by pursuing excellence in all aspects of provision."

The School Site

Durham is a beautiful, historic city rich in culture and academic activity. The combination of the cathedral, castle and River Wear provide a dramatic visual aspect while the prestigious university contributes to its bustling atmosphere and lively community.

Situated in Durham City just a short walk from the train and bus stations, we have a convenient but compact site. Playing fields are situated across the road from school and we have hard-play areas for PE and recreation on site.

Curriculum

Which subjects are taught?

The curriculum for Key Stage 3 pupils is as follows:

English, Mathematics, RE, Science, French, Technology, Art, Computing, Geography, History, Music, PE, and PSHE.

In Year 8 pupils also begin the study of German which continues in Year 9.

A small number of pupils, for which it is more appropriate, follow a study skills course instead of German.

The compulsory subjects for Years 10 and 11 are:

English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, RE, Science. Core PE, PSHE and Careers. Most pupils study a Modern Foreign Language and either History or Geography. Two sets study the separate Science GCSE subjects, the remainder of the year group study combined Science GCSE.

Options available at Key Stage 4 include:

Art and Design, Business Studies, Computing, Food, German, Geography, History, ICT, Music, PE (GCSE), Systems and Control, Textiles, CoPE, BTEC Engineering and BTEC Health and Social Care.

Pupils who choose to study a vocational course (either a BTEC course or a First National OCR course) do so instead of studying a Modern Foreign Language or a humanity. The vocational courses are Digital Media, Health and Social Care, ICT, Product Design and Travel and Tourism.

PSHCE and Careers Education and Guidance are available to all Key Stage 3 + 4 pupils through a school input and from outside providers.

Post 16 students follow either BTEC level 3 courses or A level courses. All students follow a General Religious Education programme for one period each week.

How are pupils grouped?

St. Leonard's is an eight form entry school and there are eight tutor groups in each of the Year Groups.

On entry into the school pupils are placed in mixed ability tutor groups. These units are used for teaching purposes for some subjects while setting is introduced in others. The degree of setting increases gradually through key stage 3 while some subjects continue to be taught in mixed ability groups (PE, Art, Music, Computing) throughout the key stage. The Heads of individual years as well as the Head of Sixth Form (Years 12 and 13) are responsible for a team of tutors who monitor the total performance of pupils in their tutor groups. Form tutors are regarded as the corner stone of the pastoral system. Tutors and Heads of Year stay with their groups for five years so that they have detailed knowledge of

individual pupils and can develop close relationships with parents.

Year 7 is taught for the most part in mixed ability groups. Mathematics is set according to ability, with two sets for each half pair of tutor groups. Technology has three sets for each pair of tutor groups. The remaining pupils are taught in mixed ability tutor groups. There is a nurture group which is taught by a smaller number of teachers to help transition in to secondary education.

In **Year 8**, setting is increased. English, Mathematics and Science have five sets for each half of the year group with the fifth set being smaller and taught by Special Needs staff in English and Mathematics. French has four sets for each half of the year group. Technology has three sets for each pair of classes.

Setting is also introduced into Geography and German, where pairs of classes are put into sets. A small number of pupils do study support skills instead of German where this is judged to be to their advantage. The other subjects continue to be taught in mixed ability groups.

In **Year 9**, Mathematics, English, Science, French, Religious Education and German have five sets drawn from four classes in each half year group. Geography has two sets drawn from each pair of classes. Technology has three sets for each pair of classes. Art, Computing, History, Music, and Physical Education remain in mixed ability groups.

Banding is introduced in **Year 10** with setting within the bands. All other subjects in the curriculum are offered in two Option blocks, where there is setting if there are multiple groups within the block.

Year 11 has the same structure as Year 10.

Structure of the Day

The times of the school day are: 8.55 a.m. - 12.25 p.m. 1.15 p.m. - 3.15 p.m.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday:

08.55 – 09.10 a.m.	Tutor Time
09.10 – 10.10 a.m.	Period 1
10.10 – 10.25 a.m.	Break
10.25 – 11.25 a.m.	Period 2
11.25 – 12.25 p.m.	Period 3
12.25 – 01.05 p.m.	Lunch
01.05 – 01.15 p.m.	Tutor Time
01.15 – 02.15 p.m.	Period 4
02.15 – 03.15 p.m.	Period 5

Wednesday:

08.55 – 09.35 a.m.	Tutor Time
09.35 – 10.30 a.m.	Period 1
10.30 – 10.45 a.m.	Break
10.45 – 11.40 a.m.	Period 2
11.40 – 12.35 p.m.	Period 3
12.35 – 01.15 p.m.	Lunch
01.15 – 01.25 p.m.	Tutor Time
01.25 – 02.20 p.m.	Period 4
02.20 – 03.15 p.m.	Period 5

We have five lessons of one hour each day. These times are slightly altered on Wednesday when the school operates a 40-minute PSHE period at the beginning of the day.

Extra-curricular

St. Leonard's has a broad extra-curricular offer including a thriving rowing club, the ability to contribute to its success would be an advantage.

Overall Exam Results

GCSE 2015

5+ A*-C	80.4%
5+ A*-C (English & Maths)	68%

A2 2015

A*-E pass	100%
A*-B	67.7%

GCSE 2016

5+ A*-C	77%
5+ A*-C (English & Maths)	73%

A2 2016

A*-E	99%
A*-B	66%

GCSE 2017

5+ A*-C	80.8%
5+ A*-C (English & Maths)	74%

A2 2017

A*-E	99.3%
A*-B	66.6%

GCSE 2018

5+ A*-C	82%
5+ A*-C (English & Maths)	75%

A2 2018

A*-E pass	98.9%
A*-B	58.3%