



ST. IGNATIUS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

15th April 2020

Re: Professional Reference for Mr James McGill

Mr McGill has been a staff member at St. Ignatius Catholic School for the last six years. During his time at the school he has taken on the following roles; Teacher of Year 7 – 9 Science, Year 10 – 11 Biology, Year 12 – 13 Marine Science, Key Stage 3 (Year 7 – 9) Science Co-ordinator and form/homeroom Tutor.

He plans lessons in detail in order to support students' needs and is available to listen to students' concerns. He is approachable and someone the students value and care for, he is honest and caring, always acting in the best interests of his students.

Mr McGill has experience of planning and adapting lessons to the individual needs of students, he integrates Technology into each of his lessons through the use of OneNote. Within this, extension activities are embedded as well as appropriate scaffolding for students on Individual Education Plans (IEPs). The use of OneNote allows students to be included in each and every part of the Lesson, this is evident through the progress students make within Science.

He regularly employs a range of teaching and learning strategies which create different opportunities for students to participate in lessons. Practical activities are well organized and students have clear roles when working in pairs or groups alongside clear expectations. He demonstrates good modelling of tasks to enable success from all.

Mr McGill has excellent and thorough subject knowledge in the following areas; Science for students age 11 - 14 (Key Stage 3), Biology ages 15 - 16 (Key Stage 4/iGCSE/Examination level) and Marine Science ages 16 - 18 (Key Stage 5/AS & A-Level/Examination level)

The curriculum is always well planned, Mr McGill effectively uses Module/Unit based long-term plans as well as OneNote Unit Organisation which allows for unit outlines, key term definitions and extension questions. Observations have shown that he provides clear instructions to students and scaffolds learning well. Reports are written in line with the school's expectations and inform parents of progress, attainment and targets.

Mr McGill routinely keeps parents involved in their child's learning through the use of OneNote which students can access as well as the homework portal which is used effectively. He provides instructive feedback during parent consultation meetings throughout the year.

He works in a very diverse school environment, as a homeroom tutor/form tutor he has

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delivered work relating to local culture as well as global climate change and environmental issues. He has also been actively involved in extra curricular activities such as; SeaPerch, Science Club, Science Fair, Duke of Edinburgh and Basketball.

Mr McGill has organized a number of Marine Science trips for our students which enable them to venture outside the classroom to develop their knowledge and skills in this subject. These trips have been conducted both locally and internationally and have been a wonderful success.

He is the Key Stage 3 Science Co-Ordinator, a role which covers the students aged 11 - 14 within this role Mr McGill is developing transition practices between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3. He has developed excellent assessment and tracking Excel Markbooks as well as various resources, assessment plans and rubrics for the Science department.

Mr McGill has excellent knowledge and experience of Technology, he uses OneNote in lessons to engage and facilitate the learning of students. He has also provided a range of opportunities for other colleagues both within school and island wide to learn from his experience by providing training sessions. He has presented on a number of occasions at the Private School Association Annual Conference (in Cayman) in order to promote technology within the classroom as well as education and develop the skills of other teachers. Mr McGill also has very good knowledge and skills with Excel, using these skills to track and monitor students during the academic year.

Mr McGill undertook and completed an internationally recognized Middle Leadership qualification during the 2018-2019 academic year, this qualification required him to complete a change project, this project informed the work of the school's Science Department.

Mr McGill is a hard-working member of our teaching team, he is always open to sharing his ideas, knowledge and skills with others in order to benefit the students within his care. He has positive rapport with colleagues, students and parents alike. I would recommend him wholeheartedly to your school.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Emily Alexander
Head of School

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