



AMBITIONS
Academies Trust

Curriculum Policy

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Outstanding Achievement for All

St Aldhelm's Academy -Curriculum Rationale

Curriculum Policy

At St Aldhelm's Academy, we believe each child has the right to achieve regardless of ability, SEN disability or disadvantage:

Empowering every child with a rich variety of knowledge, skills and opportunities; enabling them to progress in school and throughout their lives.

We are steadfast in our vision that the quality of our education empowers and enables our pupils through the removal of potential barriers to social mobility, thus improving their life chances and enabling equality with other students, both locally and nationally. The curriculum model that we offer at SAA allows progression throughout KS3 and 4, building solid foundations and ensuring students are prepared for their next steps in education through continual support and guidance.

We offer a knowledge based, progressive curriculum model that supports the development of key skills through the application of knowledge. Acquisition is further supported through deliberate, planned repetition of content learnt throughout the Key Stages. Accurate, continual assessment ensures that any misconceptions are effectively addressed and that progress is maximised.

Not only does the vision for our curriculum address the minds of the students, but the students as a whole. The Curriculum is not just an accumulation of knowledge built up over an academic career, but also the sum of a student's life experience. This is what helps shape the aspirations of our young people, enabling and empowering them to achieve beyond any preconceived social expectations that others may have.

"Having a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils, and prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life is Key" (Education Act 2002).

As part of our commitment to enable our pupils, each and every child will have extra-curricular opportunities such as clubs and trips so students can develop cultural capital and appreciation of subjects beyond what is expected from examination alone.

Our curriculum is critical to this success. Traditional and rigorous academic study forms the cornerstone of learning with all our students studying English, Maths, Science and Physical Education at both KS3 and KS4. Complementing our core curriculum at KS3 is a broad range of subjects our students love to embrace. Choice is a fundamental principle of the curriculum at KS4. We are very proud to be able to offer a real blend of learning to enable our students to choose subjects, which will meet their passions and career aspirations. These include traditional academic GCSEs to more practical courses such as Engineering, Design Technology and Photography.

Principles

- The curriculum is broad and balanced, providing a wide range of subjects, preparing pupils for the next stage in their education or training and to be active citizens both in Britain and globally.
- The curriculum includes opportunities for the effective spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils including extra-curricular, sporting and volunteering opportunities which develop character and resilience.
- The curriculum actively promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
- The curriculum focuses on the necessary priorities for ensuring that all pupils make excellent progress in reading, writing and mathematics.
- The curriculum develops pupils' spoken language, reading, writing and vocabulary as integral aspects of the teaching in every subject.
- The curriculum links to the school's system of assessment and that together they set out what pupils are expected to know, understand and do, and when.
- The curriculum is based on a balance between academic and vocational courses.
- All pupils have an entitlement to the whole curriculum provision irrespective of their ability, disability, gender or ethnicity.
- The curriculum is clearly defined in schemes of learning by each subject area Information about what is taught in the curriculum each year and in each subject is set out in detail on the school website. Information on extra-curricular activities and clubs is also published on the school website.

Curriculum outcomes

Our curriculum will:

- Lead to qualifications that hold currency for employers and for entry to further and higher education.
- Fulfil statutory requirements.
- Enable students to fulfil their potential.
- Meet the needs of young people of all abilities.
- encourage social mobility through increased aspirations
- Provide equal access for all students to a full range of learning experiences beyond statutory guidelines.
- Prepare students to make informed and appropriate choices at the end of KS3, KS4 and beyond.
- Help students develop lively, enquiring minds, an ability to question and argue rationally and an ability to apply themselves to tasks and physical skills.
- Foster teaching styles, which will offer and encourage a variety of relevant learning opportunities.
- Help students develop personal moral values, respect for religious values and tolerance of other beliefs and ways of life.
- Help students understand the world in which they live.

Options and Progression

Students do not have to wait until Year 9 to choose their final options. In Year 8, students are asked to choose two preferences from Music, Dance, Drama and Art in order to begin their tailored curriculum provision the following year.

Year 9 is not a GCSE year, but a foundation year used to bridge the gap from KS3 to KS4, ensuring all our students are fully prepared for the rigours of the KS4 GCSEs in Year 10.

At the end of year 9 pupils choose 3 options one of which must be History or Geography. These will form their curriculum in year 10.

Curriculum Design (Per Cycle 50hrs)

KS3 (7-8)

Subject Studied	Hours
English	10
Mathematics	9
Science	9
Spanish	3
Geography	2
History	2
Technology (inc ICT)	4
Art	2
Performing Arts	3
Physical Education	4

KS3 (9)

Subject Studied	Hours
English	10
Mathematics	8
Science	9
Spanish	3
Geography	3
History	3
Technology (inc ICT)	4
Art/Performing Arts	4

Physical Education 4

KS4 (10)

Subject Studied	Hours
English	10
Mathematics	9
Science	9
Guided Option X	6
Guided Option Y	6
Guided Option Z	6
Physical Education	4

KS4 (11)

Subject Studied	
English	9
Mathematics	8
Science	9
EBacc Option	5
Guided Option X	5
Guided Option Y	5
Guided Option Z	5
Physical Education	4

Subjects

Detailed information of subjects is available on the Academy website

PSHE

At SAA we recognise that Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) is essential for the development of the whole child it is for this reason we ensure all pupils study an hour of this a week which forms a rolling hour in lesson one. The PSHE curriculum has been designed so that encompasses and promotes the British Values and the 9 Protected Characteristics.

The British Values which are taught and promoted are:

- Democracy
- Rule of Law
- Tolerance of different culture and diversity
- Mutual Respect
- Individual Liberty

The 9 Protected Characteristics which are taught for the equality and inclusivity of all are:

- Age
- Belief and Non-Belief
- Disability
- Gender Reassignment
- Marriage and Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy and Maternity
- Race
- Gender
- Sexual Orientation

The purpose of PSHE is to help our students foster lifelong aspirations, goals and values.

PSHE is a chance to give every student an equal opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge they need to flourish now and in the future. This will include helping students to deal with critical issues they face every day such as friendships, emotional wellbeing and change. The aim being that PSHE will give students the solid foundation for whatever challenging opportunities lie ahead, so they can face a world full of uncertainty with resilience and able to build respectful relationships.

Careers Education

Our careers curriculum is designed to enable the pupils to plan and take control of their future. In KS3, students receive information about careers through workshops, tutor time activities and calendared events during National Careers Week and National Apprenticeship Week. The KS3 careers programme is designed to help the children prepare for their options selection in KS4 and their Post 16 choices. Pupils in year 10 and 11 have access to an impartial career's advisor, who will interview all students formally on a one-to-one basis. Advice on the different Post 16 routes such as Vocational Courses, A Level's, T Level's and Apprenticeships are shared with all students. Careers Carousels for all students in year 9 and 10 are also used to facilitate interactions with local providers in further and higher education. Mock interviews with employers take place for all year 11 students.

All year groups have the opportunity to develop their employability and enterprise skills through taking part in various activities and a compulsory 1-week Work Experience placement at the end of year 10. The aim is to give pupils first-hand experience of the world of work. Each year, a range of external providers attend the Academy to present at our careers fair to talk to year groups 9-11 about employability including vocational, traineeship and apprenticeship opportunities.