



All Saints'
Academy
Cheltenham

Curriculum Policy



2022-2023

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All Saints' Academy, Vision, Ethos and Mission

Our Vision

Where every member of our extended family realise their God-given potential, inspired by **John 10:10**. Jesus said, 'I have come so you may have life in all its fullness'.

Our Purpose

To be a beacon of hope founded on Christian values serving Cheltenham and the Diocese of Gloucester where there is excellence in learning, achievement and fulfilment.

Our Ethos

All Saints' Academy is an Anglican Church Academy serving the community of Cheltenham, sponsored by the Diocese of Gloucester.

All Saints' Academy is a learning and loving community which seeks to be a sign of reconciliation, living in the hope of the Gospel. The Academy strives to live out the values of the Gospel and bear witness to the teaching of Jesus.

In order to achieve this, the Academy will: recognise that every individual is created in God's image and is worthy of respect; fulfil the potential of all students by providing an excellent holistic education; nurture the spiritual development of all within the Academy community, whilst recognising that faith is a free response to God and cannot be imposed; foster a search for truth; work for the common good, instilling in students a desire to serve others and work for justice and peace.

The Academy will uphold the tenets, teachings and practices as governed by the Bishop of Gloucester.

Our Mission

At the heart of All Saints' Academy is the belief that Christ is at the centre of all we do and are. Rooted in His teaching, we seek to fulfil in every member of our community their full potential so they are able to 'live life to the full' and recognise that they are called to use their gifts and talents for the benefit of all.

We seek to do this by:

- providing a safe and secure environment where faith, prayer, compassion and reconciliation are visible in word and in action;
- providing an excellent education with a broad, balanced and creative curriculum which will allow everyone to discover their potential and to develop and share their unique talents;
- providing opportunities for all to be nourished and challenged both academically and spiritually in their respective beliefs;
- respecting and valuing the diversity of all, believing that everyone is created as a unique individual in the image of God;
- building a resilient community able to reach out and support others, both locally and globally;
- modelling through the Academy's policies, practices and values a concern to serve the common good, a heart for justice, a desire for reconciliation and the need to protect and sustain the environment.

All Saints' Academy: Curriculum Statement

The curriculum aims to provide students with a rich and broad experience, that ensures they are ready to be successful in their next step, whether that be education, training or employment. This has resulted in GCSE examination performances that have been in line with the national average for all secondary schools.

Our Academy has a higher than national average proportion of SEND students, lower than national average prior attainment at Key Stage 2 and one of the highest levels of socio-economic disadvantage in Gloucestershire (30% of students receive Pupil Premium funding). Given the level of contextual challenge, All Saints' Academy is placed in the top 20% of schools nationally in The Fairer Secondary School League Table. We have consistently been one of the best GCSE performing state secondary schools in Cheltenham.

Our Curriculum intent and implementation has been evaluated to place greater emphasis on adaptive teaching to cater for the needs of all students. We have refined our assessment practice to ensure maximum learning impact and we are enhancing all areas with enrichment opportunities to apply learning and build cultural capital.

Our Curriculum Intent

Our curriculum has been designed to ensure that all students can:

- develop personally, socially, morally, spiritually, and culturally;
- excel academically;
- receive the most aspirational careers information, advice, guidance, and experiences to help them achieve and have Life in all its fullness.

Inclusivity is at the heart of our curriculum, enabling us to meet the specific learning needs of all our students. This is planned into all learning stages with a rich knowledge and skills base for all. A flexible and adaptable approach to teaching and supporting each student ensures success.

As a Christian Academy, we teach, demonstrate and celebrate our core Christian values of: Love, Peace, Respect, Reconciliation, Service and Justice explicitly every day. Alongside these, we recognise the importance of the British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance. Additionally, all our students participate in and lead daily extended worship, weekly assemblies and PSHE lessons (Life Programme). Our careers information, advice and guidance programme is structured to meet the Gatsby benchmarks, ensuring there is thorough support for students at each stage of their learning.

We regularly review our curricula to ensure that we best prepare our students to capitalise on future learning and employment opportunities, as well as responding to the direction set by national leaders in education. Our teachers explore opportunities to enrich the curriculum with activities, both in and out of the Academy, providing students with the opportunity to develop the cultural capital, which they may not be able access within the family home. We have forged effective partnerships with Cheltenham College, the Cheltenham Educational Partnership and other organisations to facilitate this for the benefit of our students and staff.

Our curriculum has been personalised in response to the local career and training opportunities in the Cyber sector (relating to GCHQ and The Golden Valley Development). Additionally, we have placed sustainability and the environment at the heart of our curriculum as we seek to educate our students to act locally, nationally and globally so that they can impact on the awareness of future climate change for all to have Life in all its fullness on God's earth.

All Saints' Academy: Curriculum Statement

Our Curriculum Implementation

Our curriculum is divided into three Learning Cycles across the year. All cycles have pre-defined, discrete knowledge content which is shared in a Curriculum Organiser at the start of each cycle. The cycle includes 10 weeks of class teaching and independent homework followed by a week of revision and assessment and a further week of consolidation and extension teaching in response to the cycle assessment outcomes.

This approach is designed to divide learning of new skills and concepts into manageable sections, with students taught how to learn independently, memorise knowledge and revise material ready for regular formative assessment. Parents are informed of the assessment outcomes following each cycle, and teachers adapt teaching to respond to the outcomes of this assessment.

Improving a student's literacy is a priority for our teaching. Children are taught to read, write, listen and speak with confidence, fluency and understanding. All teachers understand their role in this and how their subject teaching develops those essential skills.

We assess our students in Key Stage 3, using three descriptors to identify if students are developing, achieving or exceeding in each year. In Key Stage 3 students are set in a top stream and six mixed ability groups. We have based our approach on the best available evidence on how to maximise learning progress across the ability ranges, including SEND and disadvantaged students. At Key Stages 4 and 5, students are assessed using national grading system and will work in both ability streams and mixed ability classes.

Teachers record the student attainment from each of the three cycles in the school data system (SIMS). We use an automated system (SMID) which then supports teachers and leaders to assess the impact of the teaching and identify intervention needs.

We have a classroom pedagogical approach, which is rooted in the evidence-based Principles of Instruction (B. Roshenshine, 2010). Our Academy Teaching Principles (see the Academy Teaching and Learning Policy) draw on this evidence, the National Teaching Standards and our own evaluation of what works best. When combined with the implementation of a studious learning culture, this leads to excellence in classroom teaching and instils a lifelong love of learning.

We support the implementation through a thorough programme of teaching development, which is focussed on the Academy Teaching Principles. We evaluate our practice continually through a series of self, peer and leadership review of ATP implementation.

All Saints' Academy: Curriculum Statement

Our Curriculum Impact

Our cycle assessments are recorded and used to identify progress in learning and areas which require further teaching, across whole classes or individual students. We implement our end of year summative assessment to demonstrate progress across the whole year.

Cycle Curriculum Organisers provide students with key information in each subject, enabling them to develop their understanding of key concepts outside of their lessons. Our formative cycle assessments are designed to enable a rapid delivery of feedback to students and to support staff in planning lessons to address needs and misconceptions. This means that teachers can plan to consolidate or extend the learning from that cycle.

Student feedback shows that they enjoy lessons, they find them challenging and stimulating; they know how well they are doing and how to improve and they value the relationships with their teachers. Academy outcomes at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 demonstrate clearly that students are making good progress.

We prepare our students well for their next steps and progression into Higher Education, Apprenticeships, further training or employment. The impact of raising academic standards and career aspirations has resulted in an increased number of students progressing to University, often as the first members of their family to do so. A growing proportion are taking up places at prestigious Russell Group Universities.

The impact of our Academy Vision, Christian values and broad curriculum offer, results in an Academy family where students feel happy and equipped to express themselves as individuals, have confidence in celebrating their successes and support one another through the challenges they face or may face in the 21st century.

Useful links

Further information regarding the curriculum, subject specific information, cyber security, sustainability and careers can be found at:

[Curriculum | Senior School Gloucestershire | All Saints' Academy \(asachelt.org\)](https://www.asachelt.org/curriculum)

[Cyber | Church Academy Gloucestershire | All Saints' Academy \(asachelt.org\)](https://www.asachelt.org/cyber)

[Sustainability | Senior School Cheltenham | Academy Gloucester \(asachelt.org\)](https://www.asachelt.org/sustainability)

[Careers - Welcome to All Saints' Academy Cheltenham \(asachelt.org\)](https://www.asachelt.org/careers)

All Saints' Academy: Curriculum Structure

Key Stage 3 Curriculum (Years 7 - 9)

In Key Stage 3 our curriculum is broad, enabling our students to strengthen their core subject foundations while also introducing and developing knowledge and skills in the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) subjects. This is complemented by a wide range of sports, creative and performing arts subjects. Our curriculum is designed to build on learning from Key Stage 2, following the National Curriculum, and to prepare students for Key Stage 4.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum Model

We operate a two-week learning cycle. This includes 50 hours of subject teaching and a further 5 hours of teaching through organised tutor time and collective worship focussed on the LIFE Programme (see Appendix 2) and Reading. The hours allocated to each subject below represent a two-week week period.

Mathematics: 8 hrs

English: 8 hrs

Science: 8 hrs

Physical Education: 4 hrs

Religious Studies: 3 hrs

History: 3 hrs

Geography: 3 hrs

Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish): 3 hrs

Computing: 3 hrs

Design Technology: 2 hrs

Art: 2 hrs

Performing Arts: 3 hrs

All Saints' Academy: Curriculum Structure

KS4 Curriculum and Options (Years 10 - 11)

In Key Stage 4, which commences in Year 10, we continue our broad curriculum, with all students following the Core subjects of Mathematics, English (Language and Literature), Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Additionally, all students study Religious Studies, Sports Studies and a further three subjects of their choice from a selection of English Baccalaureate (Ebacc) subjects, business, creative arts, design technology, performing arts and vocational subjects. This ensures that all students have access to the full EBacc.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum Model

We operate a two-week learning cycle. This includes 50 hours of subject teaching and a further 5 hours of teaching through organised tutor time and collective worship. The hours allocated to each subject below represent a two-week week period.

Mathematics: 9 hrs

Science: 9 hrs

English: 9 hrs

Physical Education: 4 hrs

Religious Studies: 4 hrs

Option Subject A: 5 hrs

Option Subject B: 5 hrs

Option Subject C: 5 hrs

When selecting option subjects, students are supported in making the most appropriate selection of courses to support their learning and career ambitions. Students and parents are provided with our helpful information booklet and we host an information evening at the start of the process. We then meet individually with students and then close the option period with parents and students at a final face to face meeting.

All Saints' Academy: Curriculum Structure

Key Stage 5 Curriculum (Year 12 and 13)

In Key Stage 5, we maintain our breadth of offer with courses suited to all abilities. We are proudly inclusive, with students able to study solely A-level courses or Level 3 Technical courses, or a mixture of both. We offer Level 2 courses to those who are not yet ready for Level 3 and even offer the flexibility of progressing from Level 2 to Level 3 courses over 3 years, where appropriate. Enrichment of the curriculum in Sixth Form includes opportunities for work experience within the timetabled week; personal skills development, the Extended Project Qualification, and Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Key Stage 5 Curriculum Model

We provide a mixture of A-level and Technical qualifications to students joining our Sixth Form. Students can opt to study a range of different course types:

- A-level subjects only
- A mixture of A-level and Technical subjects
- Technical subjects only
- Key skills programme for students who have not yet achieved level 2 passes in English and/or Maths.

Our students have a two-week timetable as in other year groups. Most students will study three main subjects. All option subjects have 10 hrs of teaching time in Year 12 and Year 13.

We have a small number of students who are able to study four courses and where this is requested, we support their desire to do so.

All Saints' Academy: Curriculum Enrichment

We seek out opportunities at all stages to enrich the curriculum with enhanced experiences and opportunities to learn within and outside of classroom lessons. We recognise that it is our role to equip students with knowledge and cultural capital to succeed in life. Our understanding of 'knowledge and cultural capital' is derived from the following wording in the National Curriculum:

"It is the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement."

We have an extensive schedule of enrichment activities which happen across all areas of the curriculum (weekly, termly or annually). There is a wide variety for students of all ages to discover and enhance their skills and talents. Students are encouraged to participate in a selection of Academic; Adventure; Health, Fitness and Wellbeing and Performing Arts activities. A full list of activities are available to students and parents through Edulink via the Academy website.

New activities are regularly added in response to student requests and our ambition to provide the most exceptional opportunities to our students and staff enabling them to live life to the full.



Appendix 1

The LIFE Centre (Alternative Provision)

Our curriculum intent

We believe that all children and young people should attend a school or form of education ready to learn and engage fully. However, we recognise that for some learners fulfilling their learning potential can be difficult for various reasons and at different times. Our curriculum provides Tier 3 inclusion support at the Academy to meet the current national statutory and non-statutory Government guidelines for an inclusive education.

Aims of the LIFE Centre curriculum:

- To support learners who have difficulty accessing the whole school curriculum, including those considered “at risk”, for short term, long term or part-time placements
- To help every student access learning in a manner appropriate to their needs
- To address students’ social and emotional needs, as well as promoting their spiritual and moral well-being
- To offer a flexible approach to students who have occasions where they require respite care or transition support
- To ensure all students have access to the appropriate education for their ability
- To offer transitional support through Key Stages 3 and 4, and on to Post-16 provision
- To offer support for students returning to school after a period of non-attendance

Curriculum implementation

We create a positive environment where the needs of the young person remain at the heart of all our teaching. We deliver well-pitched and challenging lessons that the students will relate to and want to succeed in. Students are held to the same high expectations as the rest of the Academy and given regular praise and recognition for improvements seen. We intensify our focus on addressing this deliberately and consistently to support those who are seeking to improve their behaviour.

We provide additional structure and levels of support so that our students continue to learn and thrive. All students are added to the “My Plan+” framework of need and regularly reviewed. Families are regularly informed of progress made and the expectations upon them as parent/carers to work in collaboration with the Academy. Termly review meetings are held with Senior Leaders to review and recognise the progress made by students and to set new targets.

We provide a differentiated curriculum with strong teaching, learning and assessment in-line with the Academy teaching and Learning and Assessment policies. The centre has dedicated specialised teaching staff that participate fully in the Academy teacher development programme. If an individual student has complex needs, we work with appropriate agencies to ensure the right interventions and support are in place. We provide resources and lessons which are closely matched to the mainstream curriculum to maintain learning progress and with the goal for students to re-join mainstream lessons. We achieve this by working closely with mainstream subject leaders.

Students engage in a Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 daily timetable with five well-structured lessons. The Key Stage 3 curriculum includes English, Maths, Science, Religious Education, Geography, Computing, Physical Education and Prince's Trust Award. Our Year 9 students are fully supported in their Option choices process.

Key Stage 4 students continue to complete their Option subjects whilst in the LIFE centre with support from subject specific teaching staff. Year 11 are supported to complete the Academy assessments and exams process through the LIFE Centre staff and resources, as well as having regular GCSE English, Maths and Science group sessions from subject specific staff/Heads of Departments. Additionally, all our students are taught the Academy Life Programme.

LIFE Centre staff support Year 11 students to identify their Post 16 destination. Learners engage in careers education with support sessions run in conjunction with our local college advisors. All students engage in employability sessions to learn key skills, e.g., practical support with identifying and applying for a suitable Post 16 destination/course or Apprenticeships. To ensure that students continue to engage and thrive once they leave Year 11, the LIFE Centre staff continue to support them by engaging with the Post 16 provider and the student's parent/carers.

The LIFE Centre provides a central location for outside agencies to work closely with students, their families and staff. This is particularly helpful where there is need for SEN agency support and link up between the SEND Coordinator, Advisory Teaching Service, LA Inclusion Team, Young Carers, Family First and Social Care Teams.

Curriculum Impact

Students develop the skills and tools to improve resilience, confidence and security in their own ability. This leads to progress in learning enabling students to achieve examination outcomes to be successful in the next step of their training or career. Since we launched the inclusive tier 3 provision in 2014, 119 students have accessed the centre, either full or part time. Assessment outcomes for all students are reported in line with the Academy policy and reported to ensure learning progress is evaluated alongside the mainstream population.

Where learners struggle to make progress, needs assessment and referrals are made. The LIFE Centre staff, with support from the Senior Leadership Team, SENDCo and the Local Authority or other stakeholders, will work towards the best outcome for the individual learner, at times this could lead to a special school placement. Some learners who continue to be disengaged will be supported through external courses or managed moves.

We recognise the need to offer an inclusive learning environment for all those accessing the Centre and returning to mainstream learning. Mainstream staff work closely to ensure that this work successfully.

External factors can prevent positive engagement for some students. In these instances, LIFE centre staff work alongside external agencies and families to maintain engagement in education and prevent the need for permanent exclusions. We have reduced the number of students being excluded, with the majority going on to significantly improve engagement, attendance and behaviour.

Appendix 2

The Life Programme (PSHRE)

Our Curriculum Intent

The Life Curriculum encourages students to develop all aspects of themselves as academic students and young people in order to realise their God-given potential

The Life Programme curriculum is a developmental programme of learning through which students acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to manage their lives now and in the future. The Life Curriculum develops the qualities and attributes students need to thrive as individuals, family members and members of society. Personal, social and health education (PSHRE) helps to reduce or remove many of the barriers to learning experienced by students, significantly improving their capacity to learn and achieve. Our PSHE education programme makes a significant contribution to students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development, their behaviour and safety and the Academy's statutory responsibility to promote students' well-being. In addition, the learning provided through this comprehensive PSHE education provision is essential in helping to safeguard students.

The Life Programme curriculum helps students to build their confidence, resilience and self-esteem, and to identify and manage risk, make informed choices and understand what influences their decisions. It enables them to recognise, accept and shape their identities, to understand and accommodate difference and change, to manage emotions and to communicate constructively in a variety of settings. Developing an understanding of themselves, as well as empathy and the ability to work with others, helps students to form and maintain good relationships, develop the essential skills for future employability and better enjoy and manage their lives.

Implementation and Impact

A significant component of the Life Programme is a weekly session delivered within tutor groups by tutors. The themes and content are mapped sequentially across the different years. This overview ensures the developmental needs of the students are met as they progress through the Academy, and that key PSHRE issues are regularly revisited in age-appropriate ways. The sessions have been developed by the Progress Leaders using guidance from the PSHE Association and the Local Authority. Tutors are trained to deliver these sessions confidently, with extra support put in place when needed.

Other significant Life topics are covered each week in afternoon tutor time and in Collective Acts of Worship. The themes of these sessions are planned to link with the spiritual focus of the week within the Academy and national events such as Children in Need and Fair-Trade Fortnight. Many sessions are linked to the students Bishop's Awards programme which allows students to put the Academy values into action and to receive recognition for their achievements at the end of the year through Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. There will usually be more than three hundred of these awardees each year.

As well as important PSHRE topics being taught and shared through the pastoral system, some key learning is also developed across the curriculum, as happens, for example, when it is the annual National Anti-Bullying Campaign and Black History Month. At these times, the area of focus will permeate all aspects of learning in the Academy.

In line with our Academy vision to strive to 'have life in all its fullness', each student completes their Student Life Record booklet each week and this encourages them to reflect on the following: their progress in their academic learning; achievements in all fields that are curricular and extra-curricular; any areas they need to develop more fully. Students and tutors complete a summary evaluation at the end of each term to clearly identify areas of success and how the student can develop in the next period of their academic and pastoral journey.

Appendix 3

Academy Partnerships

Cheltenham Educational Partnership (CEP)

Intent

To encourage Cheltenham schools, colleges, universities and other educational sectors to have life in all its fullness for the benefit of young people and the surrounding community. We aim to foster social cohesiveness and expand the horizons of young people in Cheltenham. Our involvement in the partnership reaches out to young people with potential regardless of their social, economic or educational background.

Implementation

We are founder members of CEP and play a role in devising, leading and participating in a wide range of initiatives. Some of these are included below.

Spill the Tea is a mixed school student led Podcast hosted by students from each of our partnership schools. Career aspirations are raised through the interviewing of inspirational figures in the community and successful people from a variety of industries.

Manifesto for Change is a student led initiative where a champion group of students from each school shares their views on what needs to change in education to improve their learning opportunities further. They have focused on putting their progress at the centre of the pandemic and are delivering their final manifesto for a positive change in education at the Cheltenham Literature Festival on the Voicebox open stage in 2021.

Thread count matters is an eco-campaign to remove fast fashion from communities and to improve each school's individual sustainability.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP 28) has provided a focus for our cross-school campaign offering students the opportunity to voice their vision of how we can support impact positively to limit climate change and safeguard the planet.

Parenting mental health webinars is a community and UK registered charity that helps parents who are supporting young people with mental health issues. Parents are invited to join webinars in which Suzanne Alderson shares her supportive approaches and takes questions.

Laptops for Learning is a collaborative campaign with Cheltenham Borough Council to ensure that 'No child is left behind' in their learning by providing laptops and technical support to strengthen their accessibility to educational activities.

Through the eyes of Cheltenham Art exhibition is a cross community competition to submit student photographs of Cheltenham "through their eyes," celebrating their community.

Additionally, we engage with specialist networking and CPD events. These allow our subject leaders to collaborate to share practice, methods and expertise with fellow local leaders.

Impact

Our involvement in the partnership has enabled students to widen their networking experience and benefit from working with a wide range of educational leaders, community leaders and specialists within a wide variety of fields from in and around Cheltenham.

Opportunities for professional development for education professionals in partner schools are enhanced within the scope of partnership activities. We now have helped to establish a culture and expectation within partner organisations of co-operation and that has developed for the benefit of all young people in Cheltenham.