



Saint Aidan's Church of England High School

Careers Education Policy

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Through Careers Education the department aims to help students to:

- assess their potential in terms of abilities and interests, needs and values;
- understand decision making processes, to develop the skills to make personal and realistic decisions and to consider their implications;
- be aware of the nature and range of life and occupational opportunities in a context of social and economic change;
- manage transitions within education and prepare for future transitions.

Curriculum content:

Year 7, 8 and 9: through lessons, Personal Development Days, assemblies, guest speakers, special events and Form time students deal with issues of:

- self evaluation;
- choice and decision making in readiness for moving into Key Stage 4.

Years 10 and 11: through lessons, Personal Development Days, assemblies, guest speakers, special events and Form time and with a dedicated Independent Careers Adviser:

- economic and social awareness;
- opportunity awareness;
- self-awareness and decision making;
- making transitions.

Careers Convention and Partnerships:

A Careers Convention takes place once a year, in November. It includes exhibitors from local FE and HE institutions, local employers and professional institutions. It is open to all students, but especially Year 9, 10 and 11 students and parents. We are continually developing strong links with industry and commerce, institutes of further/higher education and training agencies with a view to informing students fully of every available opportunity. Many guest speakers will address groups during the year to ensure our students are fully informed before making key career decisions.

Careers Library:

Students access to multimedia careers materials through computers in the designated Careers space. There is also a range of written materials including the latest guides to applying for college and university prospectuses. Where possible cross-curricular links are covered and students are able to observe the relevance of subject areas to career choices.

Careers Advice:

All Years 10 and 11 students will get at least one 1 to 1 session with our in house Independent Careers Adviser to support aspirations and future choices. In addition there are weekly drop in sessions with the Careers Adviser, as well as regular information and advice drop in sessions from the local colleges. Where required, students from Years 9 and 10, who may benefit from early careers advice, are seen by our Independent Careers Advisor. Each year most PP students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 will be given the opportunity to attend a careers/aspirational interview. Where necessary identified Year 11 students will be given the opportunity to complete college applications with the support of a careers adviser, mentor, life coach or tutor.

Gatsby Benchmarks:

School has a named Careers Lead, responsible for meeting the Gatsby Benchmarks. The eight Gatsby benchmarks of 'Good Career Guidance' are:

- 1 A stable careers programme;
- 2 Learning from careers and labour market information;
- 3 Addressing the needs of each student;
- 4 Linking curriculum learning to careers;
- 5 Encounters with employers and employees;
- 6 Experiences of workplaces;
- 7 Encounters with further and higher education;
- 8 Personal guidance.

The Gatsby Benchmarks have a key role in:

- Raising young people's aspirations and promoting access to all career pathways;
- Enabling all young people to develop the skills and outlook they need to achieve career wellbeing, including adaptability and resilience;
- Underpinning the Department of Education guidance to schools on meeting their statutory responsibility for careers.