

English Curriculum Statement

In line with our whole school curriculum statement, Saint Aidan's is a Church of England High School with an inclusive Christian ethos. Our vision is:

- We **aspire** to be a school where life is lived in "all its fullness" (John 10:10).
- We **believe** in the God-given potential of every one of our students.
- We **succeed** by working together as a school where all can thrive and where excellence is valued.

As a result the English curriculum is designed to match this vision, whether in formal lessons or in the wider experience of students.

The formal English curriculum

Aims: Through the teaching of English at Saint Aidan's we aim:

- fulfil the requirements of the Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 National Curriculums
- to challenge and extend students of all abilities
- to develop the potential of individual students
- to provide a wide variety of opportunities for students to read, write, speak and listen
- to promote a variety of English teaching and learning methods to raise the achievement of students working individually, in pairs or in groups
- to provide continuity and progression from KS2, through KS3 and KS4 and prepare students for English Language and English Literature at KS5 or for life and work outside of education

Objectives: By the end of their English education at Saint Aidan's all students should be able:

- to read fluently and comprehend what they are reading, making inferences where required
- to write for a variety of different audiences and purposes, with accuracy and confidence
- to speak clearly and communicate their viewpoint in a convincing and purposeful way
- to obtain the highest English Language and Literature GCSE grade that they are capable of

Key Stage 3

In Year 7 students are taught in six classes according to their EOKS2 test scores. There are two more able classes and four mixed ability classes. All students in Year 7 have four hours of English. Students are placed in 'sets' in Years 8 and 9.

Year 8 – 6 classes. 4 classes have 3 hours and 2 classes have 4 hours

Year 9 – 8 classes. 4 classes who have 3 hours and 4 classes have 4 hours

The Key Stage 3 Curriculum is accessible to students of all abilities. It is sequenced to ensure that students learn and re-visit substantive knowledge and develop procedural knowledge, over the three years.

Key Stage 4

At GCSE all students have 4 hours. There are 8 classes. All students begin their GCSE courses with the intention of being entered for English Language and English Literature. However, there may be a very small number of students, who, in Year 11 are not entered for English Literature.

Assessment

Students' work is assessed through formative assessments (known as Learning Checks), and some summative assessments primarily to ensure the right support is provided and to inform the next stages of teaching. Assessments are also completed so parents can be informed of progress, in line with the whole school reporting policy.

Intervention

Our KS2/3 Transition Teacher, Literacy Co-ordinator and another English Teacher work with students to support specific weaknesses with reading and writing. They do this in form time or curriculum time and depending on the support required, use Lexonik Leap, Bedrock and guided reading.

Enrichment

We run a KS3 Creative Writing Club and a Debate Club, open to all year groups.