

# St George's School

A CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY



## Curriculum



'Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another  
above yourselves'

Romans 12:10

# School Curriculum Overview

## Intent

Through appreciating and promoting the Christian values of **dignity, hope, community, wisdom, humility** and **kindness**, all members of St George's are encouraged to be **aspirational**.

We aim to positively impact upon each other and society so that we contribute to a world where, inspired by St Paul, we can **'be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves'**

The pursuit of **wisdom** is at the heart of life at St George's. All schools focus on the **acquisition of knowledge** and **understanding** – and these are aspects of wisdom – but **true wisdom** is something far **deeper**. Each of our values stands separately, but pulled together they help our pupils to acquire something which will help them make **appropriate choices** and **decisions**, and will provide a foundation for **positive relationships** throughout their lives. Wisdom is gained by humbly submitting to learning, by approaching others with **kindness**, by upholding the **human dignity of all**, and by holding on to the **hope** that is set before us. Like the farmer in Jesus' parable, we are sowing for the future – and we aim to provide good soil for our pupils to root themselves in; or, like the wise builder, a firm rock on which they can build their house.

At St George's, in order for all pupils to achieve **academic excellence**, we deliver a **knowledge-rich** curriculum where teachers are the **experts** whose role it is to convey their knowledge and expertise to pupils. We believe that all pupils are entitled to learn about **'The best which has been thought and said'** (Matthew Arnold). Our plans are inspired by some remarkable schools that have already embarked upon this project, while ensuring every decision is **tailored** to meet the needs of our **pupils, community** and **faith**.

Knowledge is power, and knowledge empowers children to achieve and carve out their own path in the world. By providing pupils with an excellent, knowledge-rich education we are **enabling** them to fulfil their **potential** and **broaden** their **opportunities**.

An **exceptional, well-sequenced** and **focused** curriculum can be one of the most powerful forces in **combating inequality**. Our curriculum is **intelligently sequenced** to be **ambitious** and **inclusive**, consisting of everything that is required for the development of all pupils **socially, intellectually, spiritually** and **physically**. Every decision that we make – from **timetabling** and **subject provision**, to **teaching and learning approaches**, and **extra-curricular** activities – are made with an ethical view to uphold a sense of **dignity, humility** and **wisdom**. Our **3-year KS3** is **broad** and **purposeful**, allowing pupils to study a **large range of subjects** ready to make an **informed** decision in year 10 about their specialisms. We believe by a **lack of curriculum narrowing** our pupils are able to develop a **wide range** of expertise and experience a **full, well-rounded**, education at St George's.

As part of our curriculum design we have ensured that **all pupils**, including the most **disadvantaged** and those with **special educational needs**, have access to an **ambitious** curriculum leading to a **high level** of **academic, technical** or **vocational excellence**. All pupils have the opportunity to study and enjoy the **greatest books ever written**, such as *Wuthering Heights*, *Jane Eyre* and *Animal Farm*. It is our duty as educators to ensure that when pupils leave secondary school they are in a position to enter into **academic discussions** and **debates**, enjoy Shakespearean theatre from a **position of understanding** and appreciate the value of **cultural capital**.

We provide the **knowledge** for pupils to develop their own **unique perspective** from an **informed stance**, ensuring they are **well-equipped** to navigate a constantly changing society with **confidence, hope** and above all **kindness**.

It is our mission to develop the best historians, scientists, mathematicians, linguists, authors, artists, athletes, geographers, chess champions and experts from a range of disciplines. Not only do we want our pupils to display **expertise** in a **range of fields** but we also instil **humility, compassion, kindness** and **empathy**.

At St George's we will support pupils to acquire the **self-development, career management skills** and **qualifications** they need to achieve **positive employment destinations**. This helps pupils to choose their **pathways, improve their life opportunities** and **contribute** to a **productive** and **successful** economy.

## Implementation

Because we believe **quality first teaching** is a top priority we have an **extensive** and **rigorous CPD programme** running on a **whole school** and **departmental** level. Our CPD has a focus on **promoting high quality pedagogy** and **subject mastery** to ensure our teachers are able to deliver **consistently exceptional lessons** which in turn leads to **exceptional learning**. At St George's we are privileged to have **subject specialists** in all departments as well as a **proactive team** of **lead practitioners** who **raise standards** in teaching and learning through their **research-based support**. We have a large number of **experienced examiners** across many subjects in the academy who offer their **subject knowledge expertise** to support their colleagues in their own **subject mastery**.

At St George's we pride ourselves on our **high expectations, mutual respect** and **academic ambition** achieved through a **relentless drive** for a culture of **uncompromising excellence**. One way in which we have achieved an environment that promotes high quality learning is through the use of **curriculum booklets**. Curriculum booklets are **specifically constructed** by our **subject experts** to ensure that the **very best resources** are **sequenced** to **match our curriculum visions, facilitating cumulative knowledge, long term retention** and **mastery** integrating this knowledge into **larger concepts**.

Teachers combine the **precision** of the booklets with **thorough lesson preparation** to ensure learning is delivered to **clearly and methodically** explain key **concepts, interleave knowledge and skills**, and proactively **address misconceptions** to promote **deep understanding**. At St George's our lessons are delivered in such a way to promote **high levels of academic engagement, participation, knowledge retention** and **application**. Teaching and learning strategies are under constant review and **refined** to specifically meet our pupils' needs, as a school we constantly **aspire to improve** and we instil the same drive for improvement in our pupils.

Literacy, reading and vocabulary instruction is a high priority – interleaved within our **rigorous CPD** and **specific initiatives** to promote **comprehension and communication mastery**. For those pupils that arrive at St George's whose literacy and reading skills are a barrier for accessing everything our **aspirational curriculum** has to offer, we provide **explicit teaching** through **Direct Instruction**. This ensures that pupils then have the **foundation skills** in literacy and reading to **fully engage** in our **broad** and **knowledge-rich curriculum** by the time they finish the **programme**, supported by the

precision of our carefully implemented **Reading Plus programme** which is used with all Key Stage 3 pupils.

Assessment forms part of every lesson; teachers **systematically check** the **understanding, retention** and **mastery** of **key concepts**. Twice per year we formally assess pupils through **examinations** to **inform bespoke responsive teaching**, identify pupils who require **intervention** and provide a **progress update** to parents / carers. We recognise that this can be used as a combination of assessment 'AS', 'FOR' and 'OF' learning – integrating **memory building, formative** and **summative**. We ensure that all data collection is combined with **strategic action** which adds to learning, while **minimising teacher workload**.

## Impact

At St George's we do not believe GCSE results are the only measure of **success**. We are **extremely proud** of our pupils. Pupils at St George's are **kind** and **compassionate** with the **humility** and **dignity** to put others before themselves in line with our academy's unifying scripture:

*Romans 12:10 – Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves.*

Throughout Year 7-11 we measure the success of our **curriculum** and **pupils** through a **variety** of **summative** and **formative assessment**, sharing these results with parents and carers, **celebrating successes** and **supporting** those in need.

Everything at St George's contributes to creating a **strong holistic education**; this includes **striving** for the **very best GCSE results**, which combine with the **values** and **character** that we instil, leading to the **best life chances**.

At St George's our results for **all pupils**, including **disadvantaged, continue to improve, securing** our place as the **highest performing school** in Blackpool.