



St Ives School: Curriculum Statement

The St Ives School Curriculum ensures that all our students have the opportunity for academic and personal development across a broad range of subjects and experiences. Acquisition of knowledge and transferrable skills are the cornerstones of our student's progress and we place a high value on building their understanding of community, place and social justice. Lessons and other learning experiences are carefully sequenced to build on students' prior knowledge, and to ensure that students deepen their understanding of each subject, the interconnection between subjects and how their subjects fit into the local, national and global context.

Our curriculum is the foundation to achieving our Core Principles:

- Students leave St Ives School with high value achievements and the life skills and resilience that provide a platform for future success and happiness.
- We are inspired to work together to research, design and implement highly effective and sustainable solutions to develop and maintain our thriving school community.
- Continuous improvement is achieved through a whole school culture of, and commitment to, creativity, engagement and professionalism.

Our curriculum encapsulates St Ives School's educational offer and it is through our curriculum that we deliver our promise of 'inspiring learning' for every child in our school.

Students will experience a breadth of learning

Our curriculum provides all our students with the opportunity to immerse themselves in an extensive range of learning experiences which include a rich variety of subjects, learning opportunities and programmes to develop learning skills and key understanding.

- Students study a broad range of subjects within their curriculum: English, Maths, Science, Computer Science, French, Geography, History, Music, Drama, Art & Graphics, Design Technology, Food Preparation and Nutrition, PSHE and PE. There are planned opportunities to develop recall and retrieval skills to build and reinforce previous learning so that knowledge is fully embedded. The curriculum in Years 7, 8 and 9 ensures the key skills from the National Curriculum are secure, and provides many opportunities to exceed this.

- Retrieval and recall have been fully embedded within our subject curriculums to support students so that they can know more and remember more.
- Repeat concepts are woven through the curriculum pathway to support students to make links within and between subject areas.
- A wide range of extra-curricular activities and trips offer students the opportunity to extend and deepen their knowledge and skills, and to share in new and different experiences which help shape their understanding and perspectives of the world around them.
- The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, Ten Tors, and other outdoor learning programmes are offered to all our students with specific programmes to encourage less socially confident students to participate and succeed.
- Our “Be Inspired” programme provides an extensive range of enrichment and extension experiences within the school day, so it is accessible to all. Students may select from over 70 different activities over the year to broaden their learning experiences and develop their social and life skills.

Students will receive personalised learning

- We group activities that form our extra-curricular enrichment programme using the concept of ‘The Academy’. Academic, Sporting and Creative areas ensure students are challenged with opportunities to broaden and extend their learning and experiences both within school and by working with our local partners in the community.
- St Ives School’s most able students have access to bespoke, planned opportunities to broaden and extend their learning and experiences across the five year learning pathway, including a focus on possible careers and post-16 education.
- Our highly-skilled SEND and pastoral teams provide individualised support, personalised and proportionate to the students’ needs, to support students with specific needs and challenges to access the curriculum provision.
- Accelerated Reader provides all students in Year 7 and 8 with daily dedicated time to read. Careful assessment of students’ reading level ensures that they are signposted to literature which challenges and extends their vocabulary to encourage a love of reading.
- Students who arrive with below expected literacy and numeracy skills are supported to catch up through expert teaching and incisive intervention.

Students will develop their learning skills, confidence and aspiration

- Our commitment to our highest standards of learning behaviour and conduct supports all students in becoming effective learners and outstanding citizens that our community can be proud of.

- The St Ives Growth Mindset Academy (SIGMA) embeds a culture which celebrates learning and values the challenge of academic and personal progress. Students are taught about the six key aspects of Growth Mindset, encouraged to embrace challenge without fear of failure and to have high personal aspirations and resilience.
- All our students participate in a daily tutor programme, linked to our thriving House System, which develops social skills, awareness of local, national and international issues and team identity. This enables our students to develop their understanding of active citizenship and community, and to appreciate and value their own contribution to this, and that of others. Our tutors are key adults in every student's school life: they provide academic and personal support and guidance and work with the pastoral team to ensure that each child makes the most of the opportunities available to them.

Students will thrive academically and develop as future citizens

- PSHE, SMSC and Fundamental British Values are championed at the school in order to develop students as a whole, not just academically, to ensure that they are fully prepared for life in modern Britain. Students are able to envision 'The Bigger Picture' and understand that learning is linked to the real world and experiences. Students are encouraged to take part in a range of sporting, cultural and charitable activities. Links with local and national business enrich the curriculum offer and help to contextualise learning.
- It is our intention at the school to ensure students have secure foundations for progression into further education and apprenticeships. From Year 7, students receive careers information with a clear focus on the Gatsby benchmarks and this is supported through focused careers sessions in PSHE lessons and tutor time. Over the course of 5 years, students receive a rigorous and bespoke aspirations program that exposes our students to a huge range of voices and experiences.

Equality and Inclusivity

Our inclusive curriculum ensures that every child, regardless of starting point, income, disability or disadvantage, makes outstanding progress and achieves their full potential. This is key to our commitment that every child receives the highest quality of education. Any inequality from whatever cause, is challenged, repaired and students educated through a restorative approach. Drawing on our highly trained staff team and their expertise, we pride ourselves on the building of relationships that supports the mental health of all our students.