



The Athelstan Trust

Curriculum Statement

The Athelstan Trust is a community of schools that work together to ensure that all our students and staff feel valued and are challenged to fulfil their potential. The work across our schools is underpinned by a shared vision to be Caring, Collaborative and Excellent.

We respect and value the individual nature and ethos of our schools while believing we are more effective when we work together and support each other. We believe that successful schools are rooted in their local community and comprehensive in their intake. We aim to celebrate spiritual and creative diversity, success, and lifelong learning. We are inclusive and collaborative and promote a culture of openness and integrity.

The Athelstan Trust Curriculum is based on the requirements of the National Curriculum. The Curriculum is under constant review and will vary in each school depending on local needs and context. All Schools within the Trust share the same overarching principles.

The new 'National Curriculum in England Framework' (September 2013)

“3.1 The national curriculum provides pupils with an introduction to the essential knowledge that they need to be educated citizens. It introduces pupils to the best that has been thought and said; and helps engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.

3.2 The national curriculum is just one element in the education of every child. There is time and space in the school day and in each week, term and year to range beyond the national curriculum specifications. The national curriculum provides an outline of core knowledge around which teachers can develop exciting and stimulating lessons to promote the development of pupils' knowledge, understanding and skills as part of the wider school curriculum.”

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum>



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In the Athelstan Trust our curriculum will:

CARING

- Be inclusive and knowledge-rich so that all students thrive regardless of their ability and background.
- Include a rich and diverse range of subjects and ensure that all students have access to the arts and physical education, and that, in particular, all secondary students have access to vocational options.
- Maintain a rich extra-curricular offer to ensure students have access to exciting learning outside the classroom.

COLLABORATIVE

- Provide students with the skills to form and maintain positive relationships and to respect themselves and others.
- Enable students to be effective communicators, through a range of mediums, so that they have a voice in the world.
- Be rooted in its own locality and context to raise aspirations and encourage our young people to contribute to and explore the local and wider community.
- Be informed by research and authentic academic voices.

EXCELLENT

- Be exciting and stimulating.
- Enable students to value intellectual challenge and the acquisition of knowledge and give them the skills to seek this out.
- Give students opportunities to achieve a broad range of high-quality qualifications recognised both nationally and internationally to enable them to become truly global citizens.
- Enable every learner to leave school with the confidence, ability and ambition to improve themselves with the help of excellent, impartial careers information advice and guidance.



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Curriculum Key Principles:

CARING

- We recognise that all students are naturally curious and need the opportunities and support to engage with a rich curriculum.
- We will promote and support mental health and wellbeing.
- Interventions will be used advisedly and reviewed regularly – our goal is for students to be accessing the curriculum through classroom learning wherever possible.
- We will make effective use of formative assessment and trust staff to work to move all students on in their learning.
- Staff will show a positive 'can do' attitude to students to reassure that we can support them.

COLLABORATIVE

- We will collaborate with staff across the Athelstan Trust so that best practice is shared, and excessive workload is avoided.
- We will engage in on-going discourse regarding how our curriculum develops, engaging with our stakeholders and other groups to ensure it speaks to the rich and diverse society we live in.
- We will work with other educational organisations to ensure that our work is informed by the best of current thinking.

EXCELLENT

- We will be ambitious for all students, having high expectations of everyone.
- We will prioritise the teaching of Reading across the key stages and our curriculum will be underpinned by access to high quality texts.
- We recognise the beauty of individual subjects and recognise the importance of disciplines stressing their own signature pedagogies.
- We recognise that staff are the best resource in the classroom and are committed to investing in on-going CPD to deepen subject knowledge.