



# The Athelstan Trust

## Curriculum Statement

The Athelstan Trust is a community of comprehensive schools that work together to ensure that all our students and staff feel valued and are challenged to fulfil their potential. 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. 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>

### **In the Athelstan Trust our curriculum will;**

- Be exciting and stimulating.
- Enable every learner to leave school with the confidence, ability & ambition to improve themselves with the help of excellent, impartial careers information advice and guidance.
- 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.
- 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.
- Provide students with the skills to form and maintain positive relationships and to respect themselves and others.
- Maintain a rich extra-curricular offer to ensure students have access to exciting learning outside the classroom.
- Enable students to value intellectual challenge and the acquisition of knowledge and give them the skills to seek this out.
- Be inclusive and comprehensive 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, vocational and physical education.



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## Curriculum Key Principles

- We will focus on well-being and mental health of students and staff.
- We recognise that many students and staff have shown incredible resilience and gained new skills during this period.
- We will not allow a 'what has been missed' or deficit narrative to develop.
- We will not rely on interventions and additionality – our 'normal' lessons and school provision is what we need to support students in feeling happy and settled.
- Staff will show a positive 'can do' attitude to students to reassure that we can support them.
- We will understand that Ofqual/ DfE will make adjustments to the exams in KS 4 &5 so that students will not be disadvantaged.
- We will establish what our students know and can do as we restart without using 'tests' that will cause anxiety and will make students feel they have failed. Staff are skilled in formative assessment and we will trust staff to establish appropriate starting points for their students.
- We will collaborate with staff across the Athelstan Trust so that excessive workload is avoided and best practice is shared.
- We recognise that a lot of excellent work has been done across the Trust in developing an on-line offer and on-line teaching methods. We will share this and ensure that we know what works and what doesn't so that we have this capacity in the future.
- We will review our curriculum with a wide range of our stakeholders in the light of the Black Lives Matter movement and calls to re-examine the teaching of History and British Values.

