

RIPLEY ST THOMAS

A CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY



Curriculum Policy

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Reviewed	January 2025
Next Review Date	January 2027

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An Education for Life

OUR VISION

We aim for all members of our Christian community to flourish spiritually, academically and personally so that they can live life in all its fullness.

'I have come in order that you might have life – life in all its fullness.'

(John 10:10)

Academy Vision Statement

As a Christian community, we aim to provide an education which enables all members of our Ripley family to flourish academically, personally and spiritually. Through acts of faith, hope and love, we encourage our young people to live well, to serve others and to make a difference in the world.

'And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.'
1 Corinthians 13:13

Curriculum Policy

We will:

- Deliver a curriculum which meets the current statutory requirements up to the age of 16, providing adequate time and associated testing and assessment arrangements
- Provide appropriate recording and reporting arrangements
- Provide an inclusive education in which all pupils are supported and challenged, including those pupils with Special Educational Needs
- Ensure our curriculum meets the needs of our pupils and keep up to date with all Government reform
- Continually monitor, evaluate and review current provision via subject areas and the Governors' Curriculum committee
- Plan and manage transition and evaluate all relevant data
- Provide appropriate, impartial careers guidance
- Foster voluntary co-curricular activities and encourage pupils' contributions to the school in informal, social and co-curricular activities

Curriculum Intent

Our Curriculum:

Our curriculum principles are rooted firmly in the Christian faith and the Church of England's Vision for Education, 'Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good' (2017). A Ripley education prepares pupils to live life in all its fullness, both during their time at school and beyond. Pupils are supported and encouraged to discover their God-given talents, to thrive, to flourish, and to become the best they can be.

Our academic curriculum is broad and ambitious for all. It gives pupils the opportunity to develop a deep understanding of our world and their place in it and helps them to appreciate how the past has shaped our present. Pupils leave Ripley with high levels of cultural capital and an in-depth knowledge of music, the arts, literature, and current affairs. All pupils in Key Stage 3 study two languages to develop this cultural awareness further, alongside their linguistic ability. Pupils benefit from our many practical subjects, developing their enquiry skills through science experiments, designing and creating in D&T and food, as well as building their physical strength and health through their PE lessons.

Our rich and diverse offering is well-planned and sequenced to build cumulatively, equipping pupils with the knowledge and skills they need in each discipline; it is taught by teachers who are experts in their subjects because of the high-quality and up-to-date training they undertake. Teaching approaches are adapted to meet the needs of SEND pupils and any other pupils who may need a more tailored approach.

Our co-curricular programme is key to our success and provision beyond the timetable ensures that pupils develop creatively, physically, emotionally, socially and culturally. Opportunities for pupils to participate in music and sport, as well as Duke of Edinburgh and our CCF are extensive and encourage the development of key leadership skills and resilience.

PSHE, incorporating RSHE, is central to our approach to educating the whole child and is fully implemented. It is taught in a blended way to all year groups, with curriculum content being delivered through a partnership between traditional academic subjects, worship, assemblies, tutor time, and dedicated drop-down days.

Pupils at Ripley have access to an extensive programme of careers information, education and guidance throughout their time at Ripley. From Year 7 onwards, information about careers is built into our PSHE programme to ensure pupils are well informed about their next steps and the opportunities available to them when they leave school. A careers adviser provides one-to-one guidance to pupils in Key Stages 4 and 5 and there are opportunities for work experience. Pupils in Key Stage 5 receive further careers advice from outside experts, attendance at the UCAS Exhibition, visits to Universities, engagement with tutors and from online resources. This ensures that they are aware of the opportunities for them after they leave Sixth Form, whether it be further study at University, apprenticeships or employment.

Our commitment to service seeks to ensure that pupils leave school as confident, caring and responsible citizens who go out and make a difference in our community and the wider world. Throughout their time at Ripley, pupils will complete different awards in each year group which encapsulate the Ripley values. Through acts of Faith, Hope, Love and Service we encourage our young people to live well, to serve others, and to make a difference in the world. We follow the examples of Jesus Christ and draw inspiration from the vision of Julia and Thomas Ripley in our continued commitment to ourselves, our community and the world around us. The awards inspire all members of our school family to live out the Ripley vision and values in our day-to-day lives as we aspire to flourish academically, personally and spiritually.

Pupils in Year 7 all take part in the Archbishop Young Leaders' Award which equips pupils in character education, builds their leadership skills and faith development, and empowers them to undertake a variety of transformational social action projects in our local community.

The Parable of the Talents Challenge for pupils in Year 8 is an individual and collective year group challenge where all pupils are given £1 and have to use their creative talents to raise as much money for charities chosen by Year 8.

At the end of Key Stage 3, pupils in Year 9 go on to complete the Beacon Award which is aimed at rewarding those who demonstrate excellent achievement and effort throughout the year. It is focused on three areas: Charity and Community, Academic Progress and Personal achievement.

The Charity and Community Challenge for pupils in Year 10 supports the Ripley House System, where all pupils in the year group combine to raise money for their chosen House charity by completing challenges in school and within the community.

In Year 11, pupils have the opportunity to complete and apply for the Ripley + award. Rooted in the history and faith of the school, the Ripley+ Award recognises pupils for the service and leadership skills that they have developed during Key Stage 4 at Ripley.

Students in the Sixth Form are rewarded for demonstrating our values through the ASPIRE programme. A range of achievements relating to Attendance, Success, Progress, Initiative, Relationships and Endeavour are recognised, celebrated and rewarded throughout the academic year.

The success of our curriculum offer is evident in the pride which pupils take in their work. Our pupils work hard, are resilient and produce work which is of consistently high quality. It is also evident in our published outcomes, which shows consistently above average Progress 8 measures at Key Stage 4 and value-added progress at Key Stage 5, as well as consistently higher than national average proportions of pupils in education, training or employment.

Our vision is to develop our young people in body, mind and spirit and through the excellent curriculum offered here at Ripley we provide an Education for Life in its broadest sense. It is our role to prepare pupils for life after school; we want our pupils to leave Ripley as confident, caring and responsible young people who are literate, numerate, able to solve problems and communicate effectively. We hope that they will also develop a faith to sustain them through their lives.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum

The Key Stage 3 curriculum is exciting and diverse. Pupils build on their learning from primary school and continue to develop firm foundations in literacy and numeracy. It is vital that pupils are able to read well, write fluently and articulate themselves confidently in order to cope with further learning and also life beyond school. English and Mathematics, therefore, have a strong presence in the curriculum throughout a pupil's time at Ripley. We provide extra support for pupils who join us with gaps in their literacy and numeracy skills.

We believe that reading is vital, not only for the development of pupils' literacy and for further study, but also as one of life's pleasures. Our reading strategy aims to develop and embed a positive reading culture throughout the school, in which both able and reluctant readers make progress and flourish. This strategy encourages reading for pleasure through a number of approaches including our Trust Reading Canon, a form-time reading programme, as well as support for our less confident readers.

In addition to developing strong foundations, at Ripley we want our pupils to study a wide variety of subjects throughout Key Stage 3. It is important that they can experience a broad education and can learn where their talents lie. A key feature of our provision is that all subjects in Key Stage 3 at Ripley are taught as discrete subjects and by specialist teachers throughout, enabling pupils to develop an excellent understanding of the key content of each subject.

Our pupils develop a firm grounding in a wide range of subjects such as Science, History, Geography, French and Spanish, enabling them to study these subjects at GCSE. Throughout Key Stage 3, pupils at Ripley also study Religious Studies, Art, Computing, Design Technology, Drama, Food, Music, Physical Education and Agriculture and Horticulture. The Farm is particularly important to us as it deliberately enables all our pupils to learn about care and sustainability whilst learning to be good stewards of creation.

A wide range of co-curricular clubs and teams are available throughout Key Stage 3. Pupils can take part in sports teams, music groups and choirs, drama and clubs such as Farm Club. All pupils in Year 8 also follow our Youth Alpha programme, enabling them to discuss life's big questions and explore the Christian faith.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

We are proud of our ambitious and academic curriculum at GCSE. Considering the breadth of subjects studied throughout Key Stage 3, our pupils are in a strong position to make the right GCSE option choices. The EBacc sits at the heart of our curriculum and pupils are encouraged to study History and/or Geography, as well as a language alongside the core subjects of English Language, English Literature, Maths, Science (including Computer Science) and their chosen options subjects, in line with the government ambition. Also important to us as a Church of England school is that all pupils at Key Stage 4 take GCSE Religious Studies. Our curriculum provides an in-depth understanding of different faiths, beliefs, lifestyles and choices, and is taught strictly from a non-partisan political perspective.

Our co-curricular programme continues to be high profile throughout Key Stage 4. Participation in a range of different activities enhances the taught curriculum and enables pupils to have a broader experience. Many pupils take the opportunity to get involved in our thriving Duke of Edinburgh programme for instance and we are proud to be one of the largest providers in the North West. Our pupils are also able to join our RAF Cadets Force which provides further opportunities for development and personal challenge.

Key Stage 5 Curriculum

Most of our pupils continue their studies in our Sixth Form, with many pupils choosing to join us from other schools for their studies. Our Key Stage 5 curriculum is broad and varied. Pupils can choose from 22 different subjects to suit their talents, interests and future career aspirations. The majority of the courses delivered are A Levels, with some BTECs.

Enrichment opportunities in the Sixth Form ensure that pupils develop their skills and interests beyond the curriculum. The programme allows pupils to choose from an extensive range of different subjects such as Aspiring Teachers, Aspiring Healthcare Professionals, robotics, sport, music, cultural appreciation, philosophy, Spanish and the Extended Project Qualification, to name but a few.

We also provide an excellent tutorial programme for Years 12 and 13. Following regular grade events and mock exams, all pupils benefit from pastoral one-to-one mentoring and academic monitoring. In addition, all pupils are part of a tutorial group. Tutorials cover key areas such as study skills and exam preparation, employability skills, personal and life skills, and on-going advice and guidance on next steps, including University, apprenticeship and employment applications.

Note that while the Christian faith is important to us at Ripley St-Thomas, we respect the right of parents and carers to withdraw their child from all or part of the Religious Studies provision. Please contact the school if you wish to discuss this with a member of staff.

Further detailed information about the full curriculum we offer throughout Key Stages 3 to 5 can be found on our website under the 'curriculum' heading.