

Our Vision: To be a 10:10 school – where students and staff live life in all its fullness - John 10:10

Life as a Church School

We are a Church of England Academy School at the heart of our community in Sherborne, as a truly comprehensive school – situated in second most deprived ward of Dorset - we pride ourselves on providing excellence in education to all students. As a rural school students travel from a wide area across North and West Dorset as well as South Somerset and places are highly sought after. We are a part of SAST – a local MAT and work closely with a wide range of schools and community services in our area.

Living life in all of its fullness is at the very heart of everything we do. We want to create opportunities within our school for all students to flourish, both academically and spiritually. To explore how we do this we asked staff to give their views on each of the strands. Their views are shown in the diagrams in this document.

Governors have also shared their views and are consistently reflecting on what our vision means and how effectively we live out this vision in our school community and beyond.

We work closely with our diocese, working on establishing community hubs and providing training in RE. We have 2 Chaplains who offer invaluable support to our students.



Our curriculum is designed to be broad and balanced, to develop in students a love of learning that will allow them to continue to flourish and live life in all of its fullness in their life beyond the Gryphon. We have an outstanding support system pastorally that supports our students to be resilient, overcome challenges and seek help and advice.

As a school in rural location we feel it is our duty to encourage students to think beyond Dorset and our curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities are designed to inspire students to explore their place in the wider world. It is also designed to foster enquiry and to provide students with a place to ask questions, to develop their own spirituality and sense of identity.





We have recently implemented a whole school focus called 'Respect you, respect me' focussing on inclusion, community and respect. Supported by our diversity council, student council and pride groups we have honed our behaviour policy to ensure it enables all to flourish within our school.

Students are actively involved in ensuring that living life in all of its fullness is not just about ourselves in school but about opportunities for all people around the world to thrive. Students have been supported to lead a wide range of campaigns on social justice issues ranging from period poverty to environmental awareness.

A big part of allowing students to live life in all of its fullness is ensuring that the mental health of our staff and students is consistently prioritised. We work closely with local agencies to support the wide range of needs within our community. We also support students academically allowing every student to succeed with our nurture provision, Challenge plus, Learning support mentors, & academic mentoring.

Collective worship: One of the key development points from our last inspection was to improve the provision of collective worship in the school. Extensive work has been done to allow students space and time in the day to reflect and focus on something beyond themselves. We see this as an important and valued part of our day – an opportunity to think about big questions, global issues, faith, hope and values. We have created over 700 individual reflection activities for students in tutor time and are continuing to build on and develop these. Our chaplains also provide valued collective worship for the school community – an opportunity for a year group to come together to worship. In addition there are lots of opportunities for staff and students to worship and reflect on a more personal level such as our Big Questions club run by the Chaplains on a lunchtime. We are currently in the process of establishing a reflection council where student led reflection and worship will feed into our whole school collective worship opportunities.

Religious Education: The RE department at The Gryphon school is seen as a model of excellence in the South west and prides itself in sharing our vision beyond The Gryphon. The HOD is a Hub Lead practitioner working with The Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education to provide training for primary and secondary colleagues. She has set up a Secondary Forum to support RE teachers in the south west and is setting up an artefact loan box system for local schools. She is a member of SACRE and has supported many schools with their RE provision and curriculum design. RE is thriving with 38 students studying Religious studies in sixth form and ___ Year 9 students have opted to take RE next year. For more information about our curriculum provision please see our video.

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."
John 10:10

