

Curriculum Design: Theological Underpinning



The Humanities			
Subject	Spiritual growth and development: some of the big questions asked	Biblical references offering insight	Theological underpinning – why are these subjects important to us as Christians?
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we really know the past? • What role does the past play in my 'present' and 'future'? • Can we escape the past? • Is History just another story? • If History is the story of the powerful, what does it have to say to me? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. Romans 15:4</i> • <i>O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. Psalm 136:1</i> • <i>Remember the days of old, consider the years long past; ask your father, and he will inform you; your elders, and they will tell you. Deuteronomy 32:7</i> 	<p>The events of the Bible encompass the histories of nations, kingdoms and empires. However, History is too often the narrative of people doing wrong in God's name. As Christians trying to live by Jesus' example, we must learn about the Holocaust, the violence in the Holy Land to this day, the Troubles in Northern Ireland and so many more situations, to understand how things have gone so wrong. Part of Christian life is to repent for our sins, knowing that Jesus died for us to save us from our sins. Understanding the past, even our sometimes small part in it, is key to accounting for our previous actions and making wise decisions in future.</p>
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is our place or role in this world? • How unique am I? • What impact do I have on my world? • What connects me to others? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. 1 Timothy 6:7-8</i> • <i>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. John 1:3</i> • <i>In his hands are the depths of the earth/The heights of the mountains are his also/The sea is his, for he made it/and the dry land, which his hands have formed. Psalm 95 4-5</i> 	<p>The world is all God's creation. As the pinnacle of his creation, made in his image, we as humans have a duty to care for the Earth he created. Geography explores our impact on the Earth and the wonders it holds for us if we treat it with care and love. We enter Heaven without possessions. Therefore, we are challenged to make a lasting impact through our kindness, including for our world, not for what we can take from it, such as our material wealth.</p>
English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do I understand/see my own identity? • What truly 'speaks' to me? • Do we all have a voice and if so, how do we use it? • Can words sum up feelings? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights, as I had done the first time. And once again the Lord listened to me. The Lord was unwilling to destroy you. Deuteronomy 10:10</i> • <i>Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son." Matthew 22:1-2</i> • <i>Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." Luke 7:40</i> • <i>The Lord said to Moses: Write these words; in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel. Exodus 34:27</i> 	<p>The Bible has inspired many authors. Works by C.S. Lewis, T.S. Eliot and many more show us that writing can re-tell but also re-imagine and make further sense of the Christian story. In doing so, literature which draws on Christian narratives, themes or symbolism can ask searching questions of the existence and the nature of God. It can also explore the journey of faith in more modern contexts. Stories of many forms, verses, song, and letters are the material of the Bible and have inspired much literature, Christian or otherwise. The telling of stories is essential to Christians; it is part of giving witness to God, of sharing the journey or lessons of faith with others.</p>



Curriculum Design: Theological Underpinning

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Write in a book all the words that I have spoken to you. Jeremiah 30:2 • I write the same things to you is not troublesome to me, and for you it is a safeguard. Philippians 3:1 • I write to you, children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young people, because you are strong and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one. 1 John 2:14 	
Languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In what way does my language define me? • How does language unite or divide us? • Are my thoughts 'language' or beyond language? • What do we lose or gain 'in translation'? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. Genesis 11:1 • Therefore it was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth. Genesis 11:9 • When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Acts 2:1-4 	Language is synonymous with nationhood and nowhere is this more powerful than in the Bible. Jesus doesn't discriminate on these lines. He shows us this when he asks the Samaritan woman for water – he is not interested in the common prejudices but instead begins a conversation. Acts such as these show the power of communicating to break down boundaries. Jesus calls to all of the people of the world, seeking to unite them. Whilst the book of Genesis tells us of Babel and how God scatters the people of the Earth, from speaking one language to many, Jesus seeks to create a bridge between peoples. Importantly, in Acts we see that the disciples are empowered by the Holy Spirit to speak many languages, to spread the teaching of Jesus.
Natural Sciences			
Subject	Spiritual growth and development: some of the big questions asked	Biblical references offering insight	Theological underpinning – why are these subjects important to us as Christians?
Chemistry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can something new be created by combining elements, or are all things defined by their source? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:16-17 • All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:3-5 	<p>'Science and religion are two sides of the same deep human impulse to understand the world, to know our place in it, and to marvel at the wonder of life and the infinite cosmos we are surrounded by.' (Amir D Aczel)</p> <p>Science reveals to us the wonder and beauty of God's creation and the interconnectedness of nature. As Physics study reveals to us the depth and breadth of what we cannot perceive in the universe around us and the expanse of it becomes clearer, we see what a unique creation we are. Science holds answers to most questions we have and study extends us and helps us to be the best of ourselves. However, the creation of consciousness and spirit remains elusive, as an act of God's creation.</p>
Physics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What of the world around me can I truly perceive? • How does the energy of life work at so many levels? 		
Biology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is my character a result of nature or nurture? 		



Curriculum Design: Theological Underpinning

Pure Sciences			
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Mathematics and Computing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can we see the patterns and order in nature? What provision do we need to make for ourselves, economically and by budgeting well? Why is money important? In what ways does Maths give us perspective and help us to be good stewards of what we are given? How does a sense of scale help one's understanding of the world? How do we actually go about solving problems and what part does evidence play? What is 'truth' and 'proof'? How do patterns help us to understand both details and the bigger picture? How does the passage of time affect our thinking? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>To one man he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, based on their ability. Then he went on his trip. "The one who received five talents went out at once and invested them and earned five more." Matthew 25:14</i> <i>'God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'" Genesis 1:28</i> <i>'So teach us to count our days, that we may gain a wise heart' Psalm 90 v12</i> <i>Giving to the poor and needy: 'And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Matthew 25:37-40</i> <i>Order and Proof: 'So, my friends, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues; but all things should be done decently and in order.' 1 Corinthians 14:39-40</i> 	<p>'Great is the mystery of faith'. Sometimes mathematics appears to be a series of difficult problems and puzzles. With time, patience, faith and skill we can come to see that the universe is beautifully created, that there is design and order in what originally seemed chaotic. Mathematics shows us that seemingly disconnected things are in fact deeply connected, individual parts of God's one creation. The pattern of God's love is seen in the way balance is restored and difficulty reconciled, just as in Mathematics.</p>
The Arts			
Subject	Spiritual growth and development: some of the big questions asked	Biblical references offering insight	Theological underpinning – why are these subjects important to us as Christians?
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can I express myself in Music? Is Music a form of language and can it express a wider or deeper range of feelings? What does harmony mean, or to live in harmony? How do I experience harmony or indeed, dissonance in my life? How does composition or the generation and improvement of ideas work for me? When one performs a piece of Music does one make it something new? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>'Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works' Psalm 105 v2</i> <i>'O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!' Psalm 95 v1</i> <i>"But get me a musician." And then, while the musician was playing, the power of the Lord came on him.' 2 Kings 3:15</i> <i>'David also commanded the chiefs of the Levites to appoint their kindred as the singers to play on musical instruments, on harps and lyres and cymbals, to raise loud sounds of joy.' 1 Chronicles 15:16</i> 	<p>In song and in music we give our praises to God and lift our hearts to the Lord. In singing and playing instruments in a congregation we give fully of ourselves and combine as one powerful body in Christ. In music we express our thanks to and love for God loudly and with pride. But music also allows us to express our quieter and more personal thoughts to God, perhaps through listening as much as other means. Music can bring alive the word of God, as we see so often in the Psalms. Instrumental music can also reach further than any word often can; it can sum up feelings about oneself and one's place in the world and emotions from joy to sorrow, which are often hard to articulate. Music is one of God's most precious gifts – it can embody the Spirit and be with us when we need the presence of God.</p>



Curriculum Design: Theological Underpinning

Drama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we differentiate between appearance and reality? • How do we understand identity? • What does silence have to say that language sometime cannot? • Are my gestures and actions a form of language? What do they say? • When we watch, do we always also judge? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Take in your hand this staff, with which you shall perform the signs. Exodus 4:17</i> • <i>And the Lord said to Moses, “When you go back to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders that I have put in your power; but I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go.” Exodus 4:21</i> • <i>And when their hearts were merry, they said, “Call Samson, and let him entertain us.” So they called Samson out of the prison, and he performed for them. They made him stand between the pillars. Judges 16:25</i> 	<p>The Christian story has inspired many plays. The passion plays are a reminder that the story of Jesus in particular is deeply dramatic and symbolic – in this we mean that significant change occurs which has an equally significant impact upon the spectators. As Christians we take key events, notably the last supper, and re-enact these. This process of re-interpretation is both faithful to the original act yet also iterative, giving deeper understanding on each occasion. In this spirit, we see that a spectator may learn a huge amount from observation but never as much as the person directly engaging with the act. Events such as the passion plays demand a response. Bertolt Brecht famously put deeply moral conundrums in front of his audience for them to wrestle with. As Christians we know that we cannot simply walk away from difficulties and problems, especially where injustice is a consequence. Drama can hold us all to account by confronting us with uncomfortable truths about our lives and society.</p>
Art & Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do Art and Design enrich each of us and our world? • What contributes to the development of one’s unique perspective? • What do realistic and abstract representations offer to us in different ways? How do they help us to understand the world? • Why do we perceive beauty in some things and not in others? • What does art teach us about value, worth and wealth? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>‘And God saw that it was good’. Genesis 1</i> • <i>‘Do nothing from selfish ambition or deceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves’ Philippians 2:3</i> • <i>‘All worshipers of images are put to shame, those who make their boast in worthless idols; all gods bow down before him.’ Psalm 97 v7</i> • <i>‘Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.’ Acts 17:29</i> • <i>‘And he gave skill to human beings that he might be glorified in his marvellous works.’ Sirach 38:6</i> 	<p>We all have God-given talents – our expression of these is necessarily different. Christians should appreciate and accept others, respecting creativity and achievement without overlooking flaws. It feels natural to celebrate God and his world through artistic expression, yet this is problematic in the Bible. Those who worship false idols, or who presume to know the likeness of God find their works torn down. More often than not, the doubts around ‘art’ in the Bible are due to the associations with shows of wealth and status. The true artist does not seek to curry favour or approval, but finds a path to personal expression which is singular and individual, much like faith. Art and Design can show a deep appreciation for the world around us, including the built environment. Art can also transcend spoken and written language to highlight injustices and call people to take action.</p>
Applied and Professional			
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Design & Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What remains to be discovered in our world? • What does it mean to be ‘responsible’ in our use of technology? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus. Philippians 2:5</i> • <i>So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For</i> 	<p>Using our skills in design and technology can help to make our world a better place: a key Christian concern. We have a free will and choice to use technology for a good moral purpose. Advances in</p>



Curriculum Design: Theological Underpinning

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does technology challenge our understanding of humanity? • Is technology a force for good? • Can human design rival natural beauty? 	<p><i>I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. John 13:14-15</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. Acts 2:17-18</i> 	<p>engineering for instance can break down barriers, literally 'build bridges' and in doing so reduce inequality and increase fellowship. God has given us our expanding potential to wonder and discover more about His world. We can engage with the Holy Spirit to be agents of change, acting responsibly as stewards of God's creation.</p>
Sport and PE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does the idea of 'personal bests' mean to me? • How does individual and team achievement reward a person in different ways? • What does fairness mean? • Can sport be about respect when it is essentially competitive? • What role does discipline play in my life and successes? • Does fitness of body and mind characterise a good person? • What does my body mean to me? Does this change? • Can we co-operate without rules? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>St Sebastian is the saint of athletes – his martyrdom and courage inspired sportspeople</i> • <i>'in the case of an athlete, no one is crowned without competing according to the rules' 2 Timothy 2:5</i> • <i>'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith' 2 Timothy 4:7</i> • <i>'It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body' 1 Corinthians 15:44</i> 	<p>Each person is unique and special in the eyes of God. Jesus' teaching challenges us to make the most of the time and energy we have and what we can do for others – what effect can we have as a person, what can our achievements be apart from the easy tokens of success such as money, power and fame? Sport and exercise can remind us of the endurance we need to see past problems and setbacks to the promise of a brighter future in Jesus. Like a marathon, the greatest achievements as a disciple can come from the greatest sacrifice and the hardest of times. In a journey of faith, Christians will go through many stages, many doubts. Paul reached a moment of revelation on the road to Damascus.</p>
Personal Development			
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Citizenship inc Modern British Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is my impact as an individual? • How do my words and actions make a difference? • In what ways do we affect change? • What does a community mean? • What responsibilities do we have for one another? • Who is my brother or sister? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. John 13:34-35</i> • <i>When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her". John 8:7</i> 	<p>Jesus was radical in the way he spoke 'truth to power'. He demanded that fairness be an abiding principle, to do to one's neighbour what one would have done to you. Jesus saw the strength in ordinary people and their voice. He was not interested in symbols of power but in the unity of the many coming together. As Christians, we have a duty to spread this message: that we are all born and remain equal in the eyes of God and everyone must have a voice.</p>