

Teaching at Becket Keys Church of England School

(Quotations below are from our OfSTED report)

This is a Church of England school, with gospel values at its heart. Whilst many of us are practising Christians, we welcome those of different faiths, or none. If you will get on well with other people, love going the extra mile for students and are committed to our core values (respect, responsibility and forgiveness), you will fit in well here.

“A vibrant, orderly community”

Becket Keys opened in September 2012, our first intake sat their GCSEs in 2017 and they sat their A-Levels in 2019. Whilst OfSTED judge us outstanding and our first few sets of results have been exemplary, we take nothing for granted, and we are working hard to ensure students in future cohorts achieve just as highly. The school is very heavily oversubscribed, as prospective parents and children like what they see when they visit us on a typical working day, commenting on our positive, inclusive ethos, which fosters high aspirations, a love of learning, and respect for others.

“Attitudes to learning are exceptional”

Self-regulating behaviour is the goal of our ‘Character Education’ approach, so students become self-disciplined, responsible citizens with humane, reasoned values: respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, honesty, caring, fairness, forgiveness. We avoid ‘prohibited behaviour lists’, as external ‘rules’ are often ignored when nobody is looking. We begin with routines (established and enforced by staff), progressing to habits, thence to attitudes. Suspensions are rare but used where required. Students typically behave extremely well in lessons and around the school.

“Students... make rapid progress & achieve exceptionally well”

Students are assessed against the Stage Ladders our Expert Trust (RET) have created for Key Stage 3. For GCSE, we give students targets based on above national progress from entry to GCSE and in line with the progress they have made through Key Stage 3. We take a similar approach to all schools with A level targets being set against GCSE grades.

We monitor student performance in various ways and intervene where any are making insufficient progress. Teaching is mainly delivered through mixed-ability groupings, but we set in Mathematics and occasionally in other Core subjects where we have good reason to do so. Class sizes average at 27 in KS3, 24 at KS4 and 17 at KS5. Our 6th Form provides a strong local choice for students’ continuing education. We have 250 students studying A-Levels and expect this number to rise to 300 next year.

“The quality of teaching is consistently good, with much that is outstanding”

A detailed induction programme takes all new colleagues through standard learning routines, marking expectations and schemes of work. We believe everyone can improve their practice, through systematic training and development. Russell Education Trust (RET) advisors are frequently in school, supporting Heads of Department in planning our curriculum and checking that assessment is fit for purpose. There are regular Trust-wide subject network meetings and conferences. Our RET advisors also work with our senior team, to deliver onsite training to the whole staff, departments and individuals. The latter activity includes 1:1 teacher coaching, to challenge and support everyone to become highly effective at lesson planning and delivery.

“...a wide range of curricular and enrichment opportunities...”

In addition to the standard curriculum, we offer a wide range of additional learning opportunities, including sport, music, drama and additional study sessions, particularly for students preparing for GCSE and A Level. Members of staff are expected to contribute to the extra-curricular programme and it forms part of their performance management programme.