

St Wilfrid's Catholic School

English Department



The secret of our success is passionate and caring teachers that are prepared to go the extra mile for students. We have an excellent reputation with the students who see the department's commitment to their learning and are confident that they will do well in English.

Key Stage Three

All teaching at Key Stage Three is in sets, according to ability. We enjoy challenging, diverse and interesting texts which include: 'Once', by Morris Gleitzman; 'The Bone Sparrow' by Zana Fraillon; 'My Name is Leon' as well as 19th Century fiction such as Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes. We like to give students texts that make them think beyond the environment in which they live. Other units include an introduction to the media, poetry from other cultures and the art of rhetoric. As a department, we have been emphasising reading as a priority and we work in liaison with our hub co-ordinators to provide quality and consistency. The curriculum is streamlined into a five-year programme, which sees GCSE studies starting partway through Year 9 with a strong focus on reading in order to secure improvement.

Key Stage Four

As in Key Stage Three, we set carefully, by ability and these sets are reviewed frequently to allow movement up and down if we see an issue with a student's learning. Beginning GCSE courses in Year 9 allows us to explore units in more depth and be more creative; returning to each unit at least once in order to reinforce and consolidate students' learning.

We follow the AQA 'A' syllabus with English and English Literature being taught as a combined course historically, with success in each subject. GCSE Media is an option subject and is currently delivered by subject specialists and sometimes co-taught by English teachers.

GCSE Results	2022		2023		2024	
	Grade 4+	Grade 5+	Grade 4+	Grade 5+	Grade 4+	Grade 5+
English & Maths	82%	53%	75%	50%	80%	50%
English Language	85%	65%	78%	60%	81%	54%
English Literature	85%	64%	76	51%	82%	58%

Key Stage Five

English Literature is offered at A Level studying the AQA syllabus. Due to our success at GCSE, we regularly have a high number of students choose the subject for A Level. Teaching is usually in teams of two with each teacher being responsible for a module. We follow the 'Modern Times: Literature from 1945' strand and our chosen texts are 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof'; 'The Help' and 'Feminine Gospels' which have proved to be very popular with excellent exploratory work being done on each.