



St Mary Redcliffe  
and Temple School

Prospectus



Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School; a school with over 450 years of distinguished history.

I am proud to be the Headteacher of St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School and St Mary Redcliffe Sixth Form. We are an ambitious, successful, and heavily oversubscribed 11-18 co-educational, Church of England, comprehensive school of just under 1800 students, serving families from the whole of greater Bristol and beyond. We are located at the heart of the city and have a truly diverse student community with considerable parental support. Our diversity is a strength and something we celebrate. The Redcliffe Sixth Form Centre houses about 700 students recruited from our own school and many other schools across the City.

Our past, present and future success is rooted firmly in our Christian ethos. Each member of our School community is created by God and our aim is to achieve our full potential. We are inspired by Jesus' words in John 10:10, 'I have come that you may have life in all its fulness.' We are proud of our academic success and the character development that we nurture at SMRT through our 'Alive' curriculum model. Central to this character development is the place of sports, creative subjects and the arts in our curriculum.

Our Christian ethos is at the centre of our distinctiveness and success. We have an immensely talented and dedicated staff body who are passionate about our students and developing the skills, knowledge and Alive qualities so that all our students can make their unique contribution to the world.

An inspector wrote, "Church school status makes an important and distinctive contribution to the school's exceptionally positive values and beliefs".

We hope you find this prospectus helpful and encourage you to visit the Why SMRT? page on our website for more information and videos. Better still, come and see the school in action. We look forward to meeting you.



Mr D M Planter - Headteacher



“ Our children are given the **best academic opportunities** and are **guided with love.** ”

Parent





**Every member of our School community is created by God and our aim is to achieve our full potential. We want every student to be able to say:**

- I feel safe
- I belong here and have good relationships
- I enjoy my learning and achieve well
- This School helps me to make my hopes for the future come true



**The factors that help young people be fully themselves are:**

- **Empowered Learning**
- **Good Relationships**
- **Safe Boundaries**

**Empowered Learning** is active, reflects our values, beliefs and aspirations. It leads to high achievement. We have high expectations and give students clear guidance on how to improve.

**Good Relationships** include a sense of belonging to God and each other, positive feedback and ways back when things go wrong.

**Safe Boundaries** include good order, security, accountability and consistency.

“ I have come that you may have life in all its fulness.

(John 10:10)

“ Students are **highly reflective** about matters of faith and personal responsibility; their social awareness is **remarkably perceptive**.

Ofsted



## Hope

**We want to glorify God by our worship and by what we are as individuals and as a community of students, staff, governors and parents/carers.**

**We intend that every student will reach their full potential in body, mind, heart, and soul.**

**We want to help our students to value faith, trust and truth, themselves and others, justice and respect, and diversity and choice.**

**We seek to help them develop the skills to question, communicate, review, research, and contribute.**

**We desire each student to be resilient, organised, interdependent, creative, and forgiving.**

## We Value Faith

Worship is one of our most distinctive features. Members of the School community come from many churches so we provide a wide range of acts of worship, reflecting the diversity of Christianity.

Beginning and end of term services take place at the beautiful and inspiring St Mary Redcliffe Church. Every day sees various acts of worship, ranging from small group activities in tutor groups through to larger assemblies. We welcome a number of visitors, both clergy and lay, to lead some of these. There are regular House Eucharists, Christian Unions, and prayer groups. We see charity work as an expression of our worship and we make special focuses at Harvest, Christmas and Lent, and support charities chosen by the School community. We also have a special partnership with Ikoba school, Uganda.

We strive towards becoming courageous advocates on key issues affecting our world.

By law, parents/carers are allowed to request the withdrawal of their child from worship and from Religious Education. These activities are so central to the life of our School and by choosing to attend our School we expect our students to demonstrate commitment to our ethos.

For children of other faiths, we support and respect their worship and beliefs and value their attendance at and contributions to the compulsory acts of collective worship. We are proud of the inclusive nature of our worship.

“ The glory of God is a human being fully alive.

(St Irenaeus)



A photograph of two young students in school uniforms sitting at a desk in a classroom. The student on the right is a white boy with brown hair, wearing a dark grey blazer over a red sweater and a white shirt with a dark tie. He is looking towards the other student and smiling slightly. The student on the left is a Black boy with short hair and glasses, wearing a red sweater over a white shirt and a dark tie. He is looking towards the white student. The background is a classroom with other students and a blue wall with educational posters.

**We are creative**  
**We value ourselves**

“ Student behaviour, both within classrooms and around the school site, is **extremely impressive**. This reflects their **high level of maturity and social responsibility**.

Ofsted





# Safe Boundaries

**The School has high standards of behaviour. It is partly through making each student feel an important part of our community that the standard of behaviour is so good.**

All students are expected to wear the School uniform, which helps to give students a sense of belonging to the School. We have a number of robust policies and procedures to ensure that students respect and value the contributions made by their peers. School leaders and Governors review these regularly to make sure they are relevant and working properly. In our School, we pride ourselves on the relationships that exist between

students of all ages and between staff and students. A disciplined atmosphere is important to create a good learning environment and we do not tolerate bullying, discrimination, harassment, or behaviour that stops others learning.

We value the cooperation of parents/carers in establishing acceptable standards of behaviour and, if necessary, parents/carers are invited into School to discuss any problems that might arise. We operate a detention system and expect parents/carers to support the use of this sanction. There is a high expectation of behaviour, both in the classroom and around the School generally.

Good behaviour and positive attitudes to learning are encouraged through extensive use of praise and reward systems. Students are given 'Alive' points for good performance and for demonstrating the School values and different certificates are awarded according to the number of Alive points gained. At the end of each term, an award is presented to the House holding the most Alive points. This culminates with the most successful House winning the Alive Points House Competition trophy which is presented during the final service of the academic year.

We are proud of our diverse intake as we believe all students are equal in the eyes of God and strive to ensure equity in all we do.

“ **The school's work to keep students safe and secure is outstanding.** ”

Ofsted





**Leadership and Management at St Mary Redcliffe are exceptional at all levels.**

Ofsted

## Mental Health and Wellbeing

We promote positive mental wellbeing for all students and support them to develop the skills needed to keep themselves healthy.

We do this through a combination of approaches dependent on need. We have a pastoral team that is made up of a variety of specialist professionals who work collaboratively to support our students so that they feel supported and able to develop strategies and independence with their mental health and wellbeing.

In addition to a strong year group based pastoral structure we are proud of the support provided via our specialist mental health team and team of school based counsellors. Please see our website for more information.

## Safeguarding Provision

We cultivate a culture of safeguarding across the school because we believe that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and recognise that students who feel safe are able to learn and grow. Please see our website for more information.

We are committed to protecting our students and ensuring their safety and wellbeing, not just whilst at school but also in the wider community.

We believe that as a community we should respect each other and celebrate each other's differences so that the care, happiness, and safety of every single person is the concern of us all.

## How to Apply

You can apply for a place through your local authority website, however, you must also complete our school supplementary form if you are applying as a church or faith applicant.

Our Admissions Secretary will be able to help you with any application queries so please get in touch if you require some help with your application.

# Good Relationships

## Pastoral System

The pastoral system is one of our real strengths. Our students come from a wide variety of schools in different parts of Bristol and the surrounding area, so we make them feel part of the School as soon as possible. Year 7 students have their own House, in the Ikoba Building, led by the Head of Year, a Deputy Head of Year and a Learning Mentor. Friendships are quickly formed, as the students are taught in their tutor groups for most of their timetables and there are many inter-tutor group competitions and activities to help students foster a strong sense of team spirit and develop an identity within the School.

In 2023 we moved from mixed vertical tutor group to a horizontal year based system. Therefore, students will continue with their tutor group from Year 7 through to Year 11. There are approximately 28 students in each group.

The Tutor is the first point of reference for parents/carers who wish to contact the School and is responsible for students' support and guidance. The Tutor is able to give the appropriate support to meet each student's individual needs, through individual conversations and target setting. The Tutor is able to draw on a large in-school network of support programmes, designed to help each child fulfil their potential. The School has close links with a number of outside agencies to complement the work done within School. We enjoy close working relationships with parents/carers in resolving any difficulties.

Each child is also a member of one of our five vertical houses. Each House is made up of students from Year 7 through to Year 11. The School has an enviable reputation in a variety of sports and this is fostered within the House system through a number of inter-House matches during the year. Students are always encouraged and empowered to take on responsibility and there are Year, House and School Councils made up of representatives from each tutor group. The pastoral system is also the focal point for the daily act of worship. We have the flexibility to hold assemblies as whole Year or House events as required. Students are encouraged to take an active part in the planning and presentation of collective worship in their tutor group setting and across the school. We are justifiably proud of the pastoral system that plays an important part in helping each student to make the most of what the School has to offer and achieve success.

## Sports and House Competitions

Sports is central to life at SMRT as it reflects so many aspects our Alive model.

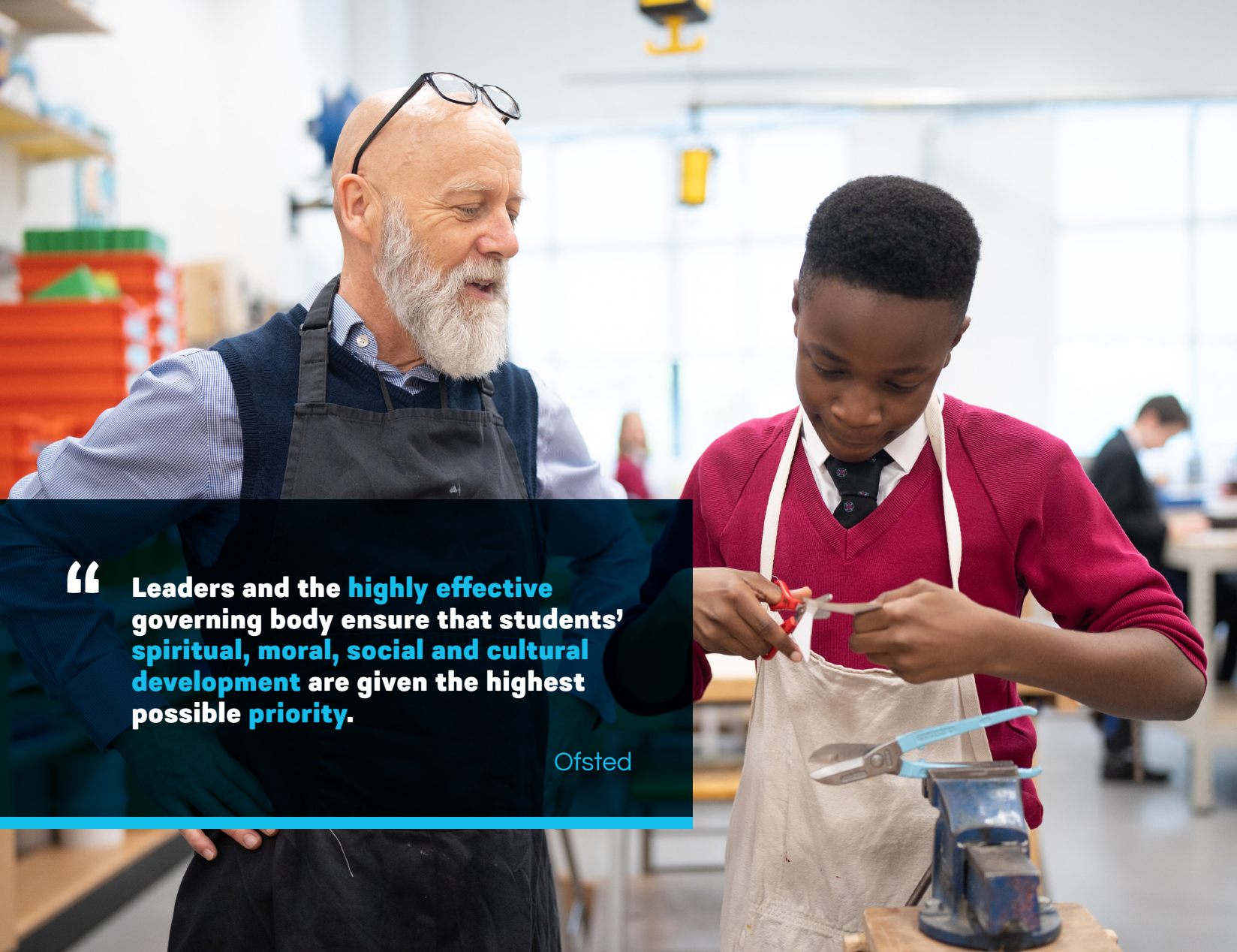
Following the pandemic, the School is committed to building on its enviable reputation in a variety of sports and this is fostered within the House system through a number of inter-House matches during the year and external fixtures. Our house competitions are creative and inclusive with much more on offer beyond sport!



“ The School respects our complete child - strengths and imperfections!

Parent





“ Leaders and the highly effective governing body ensure that students’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are given the highest possible priority.

Ofsted

## Community

Community links are very important. There is a real ‘Redcliffe’ identity in Bristol and we want to build on that. Each year, there are special services at the beginning of the year, at Christmas and on other occasions to which all friends of the School are invited.

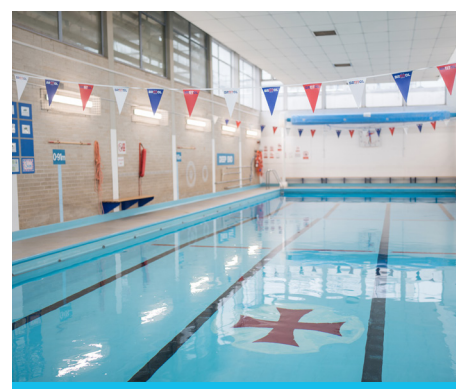
The thriving Friends of SMRT Association organises events for the whole community, and the Governing Body has representatives from former members of the School, from churches and from local commerce and industry.

Parents/carers are encouraged to contribute to the Friends of SMRT Support Fund, which supports the Governors’ building programme and the Enabling Fund. The latter exists to enable all students to take advantage of the many educational opportunities offered and to enhance the facilities of the School to the benefit of students.

## Facilities

Our main building, which was completed in autumn 2010, includes state of the art Science, Art, Music, PE, Design Technology, Library, Maths and English facilities. We have a separate small building in which Year 7 students register and a small quiet playground area reserved for Year 7 use. A separate sixth form centre provides a mature

base for sixth form students. We also have a sports hall, swimming pool, floodlit multi-use games area, gymnasium, and additional sports facilities at Old Redcliffians RFC sports grounds in Brislington. Our IT facilities are good and well managed and enable us to use IT to support effective learning.





# Empowered Learning

## The Alive Curriculum

We provide each student with a broad, balanced and relevant set of subjects, aiming to enrich their spiritual, intellectual, moral, physical, social and cultural development. We fulfil all the requirements of the National Curriculum with additional emphasis on Religious Education. There are over 24 teaching hours each week, with assemblies and tutor-time in addition.

At Key Stage 3 all students study English, Mathematics, Science, Religious Education, Geography, Design Technology, History, French or Spanish, Art, Computer Science, Music, Physical Education and Values in Practice, which includes: Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Careers Education (PSHCE). We take careful note of Key Stage 2 assessments and other information from primary schools. There is some setting in Year 7 in Maths and, additionally, in Year 8 in Science and Modern Foreign Languages.

At Key Stage 4 the majority of students follow courses that generally lead to nine GCSEs. Most take English (Language and Literature), Mathematics, Combined Science and Religious Education. There are also lessons in core Physical Education, Values in Practice (including Careers). Additional choices are made from Separate Sciences, History, Geography, French, Spanish, Computer Science, Design Technology (Product Design or Textiles), Hospitality and Catering, Engineering, Art, Photography, Music, Business Studies, Physical Education, Health and Social Care, Child Development, Drama and Media Studies.

## Learning Support

As a school we are committed to ensuring that the personal success of all of our students is encouraged and championed. We have a Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENDCo) who leads a team which includes a Deputy SENDCo, specialist teachers and learning support assistants who work closely with mainstream school staff to support and nurture the skills and learning of all students with special educational needs.

The department supports in a variety of ways: through offering 1:1 tuition in literacy, numeracy, social and life skills; small group interventions; in-class support; offering SEN coaching and training across the school; and organising access arrangements for exams and assessments. Parents/ carers of students with special educational needs are encouraged to contact our SENDCo before applying to the school.

Our School is well known for outstanding practice in helping gifted and talented students do their best. Our excellent practice was recognised at a national level being designated a 'Gifted and Talented' specialist school.

## Reporting

Students are assessed regularly by their teachers and feedback on progress, effort and behaviour is provided regularly to parents/ carers through a combination of parents'/ carers' evenings, written reports and gradesheets.

All students are involved with their annual reports which mean that they are involved in dialogue, both written and verbal, with their teachers in reviewing and assessing their progress and in setting targets for the future.

## Sixth Form

We offer around 36 Advanced Level courses in the Redcliffe Sixth Form Centre. Most students go on to Higher and Further Education at establishments all over the country. We take pride in our regular Oxford, Cambridge, and American University successes and aim to bring out the best in all our students.

We have an experienced team of tutors and learning mentors who offer support and guidance. There are also plenty of additional enrichment, social, and sporting activities to extend student skills and experience. We value the leadership roles that many of the Sixth Form students exercise by supporting children in Year 7 and in leading debates, Christian Unions and worship events.

Details for entry to the Sixth Form may be obtained from the Sixth Form area of the School website and at the special Open Evenings.

## Homework

We believe that all students should do regular homework in order to learn to study independently, to reinforce what is learnt in the classroom and to extend subject tasks.

There is a homework timetable for all year groups and we use an online homework platform, Edulink, to share details of homework with students and parents/carers.







## Extra Curricular

We aim to encourage as many students as possible to participate in a wide range of additional activities, occurring at lunchtime, afterschool, weekends and holidays. Activities include homework/coursework clubs, House competitions, sport, orchestra, school productions (drama and musicals), Christian Union, theatre visits, school matches, indoor games club, public speaking, gospel and chamber choirs, voluntary community service and Eco Club.

Trips abroad have included destinations such as Iceland, Belgium, Spain, Switzerland, France, Germany and Uganda. We are delighted to have our own swimming pool and our sports facilities mean we are excelling in a wide range of sports. We have an annual Activities Week at the end of the summer term for Years 7 to 9.

Music is a particular strength of the School. Individual and/or group instrumental tuition is provided in School in a wide range of instruments, including Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Trumpet, Cornet, Horn, Tuba, Euphonium, Trombone, Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon, Saxophone, Drums, Spanish, Electric and Bass Guitars, Piano and Electronic Keyboard. Lessons in singing are also offered. More detailed information is available from the Head of Music.

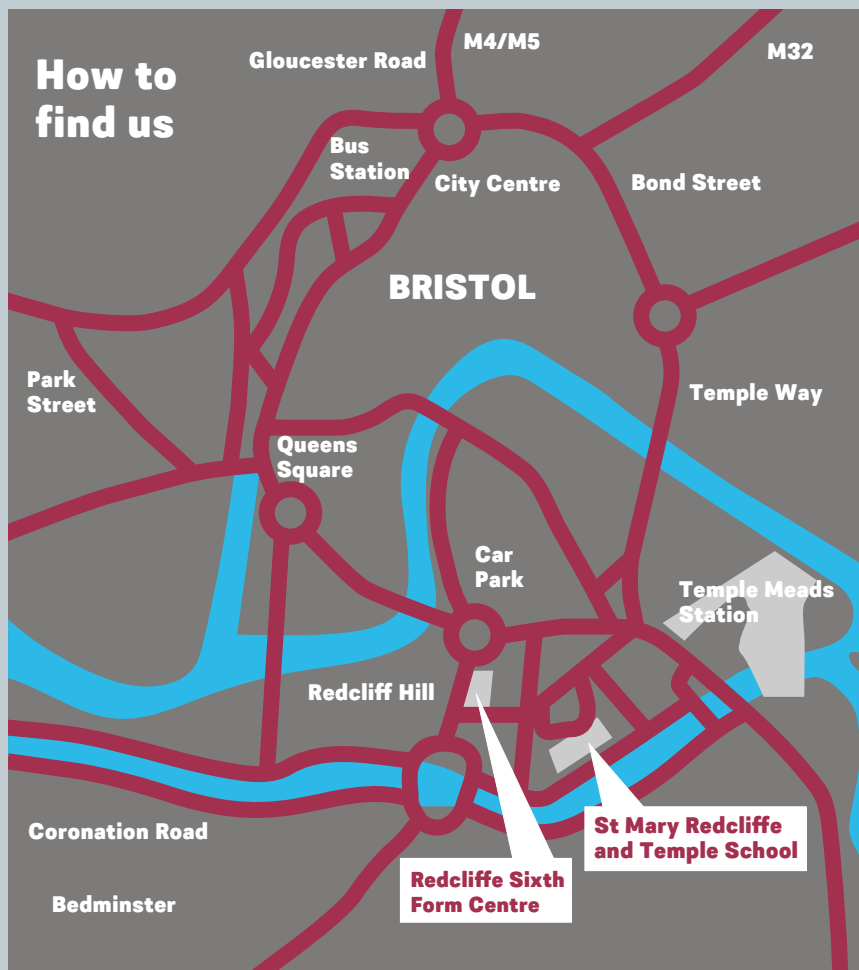
“ The curriculum is **extremely broad and well balanced**. It enables all groups of students to pursue **suitable options** at Key Stage 4. The effectiveness of the curriculum is reflected in the consistently **high levels of student achievement**.

Ofsted

## Careers & Progression

We have a comprehensive Careers Education programme throughout the School. This includes employer encounters from Year 7 onwards. We support GCSE decision-making in Year 9 and continue with regular lessons in Years 10 and 11. We provide a programme of advice in Years 12 and 13, which supports students in Further and Higher Education decision making and raises awareness of alternatives such as apprenticeships.

Our curriculum includes lessons specifically designed to broaden aspiration and knowledge of careers in all subjects. There are opportunities for work experience, individual careers interviews with our own independent Guidance Advisor and support from learning mentors to help students achieve their best. We publicise other Post 16 opportunities, Careers Fairs, Apprenticeships and the like on our School website.



St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School is at a convenient central site within easy access of Temple Meads Station and many bus routes.

Please note that the school does not have on-site parking facilities for students and parents/carers. Visitors are advised to use public car parking spaces.

Any visitors who need help with their mobility are advised to contact the school before visiting so that appropriate parking arrangements can be made.

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