



QUALITY IN CAREERS WEBSITE ©

CEIAG Case Study: St Peter's Catholic School, Guildford

The School

St Peter's Catholic School is a mixed 11–18 Catholic secondary school in Guildford, Surrey, and is part of the Xavier Catholic Education Trust. The school serves a wide geographical area and has approximately 1,360 students on roll, including around 310 students in the Sixth Form.

Rated Outstanding by Ofsted, St Peter's is committed to providing an education that enables every student to flourish academically, personally and spiritually. At the heart of the school's ethos is its mission to be 'Christ to All', encouraging every member of the community to live out Gospel values through service, compassion, respect and excellence. This commitment underpins all aspects of school life, including careers education, where students are encouraged to recognise their unique talents, aspire to ambitious goals and use their gifts to make a positive contribution to society.

The careers programme reflects the school's commitment to high aspirations, equality of opportunity and preparing young people for successful futures. Through strong partnerships with employers, universities, training providers, alumni and the local community, students benefit from a broad range of meaningful encounters that help them make informed decisions about their next steps and develop the skills needed to thrive in an ever-changing world.

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

The programme is led by the Level 6 qualified Careers Leader/Careers Adviser, supported by the Senior Leadership Team, Careers Link Governor, Heads of Year and departmental Careers Champions ensuring that careers education is embedded across the whole school. A Work Experience Co-ordinator oversees the Year 12 work experience programme while the UCAS Co-ordinator manages university and apprenticeship applications.

The careers programme at St Peter's provides a progressive framework of careers education from Year 7 to Year 13, ensuring that every student develops the knowledge, skills and

confidence to make informed decisions about their future. The programme is designed to broaden horizons, raise aspirations and prepare students for successful transitions into further education, apprenticeships, higher education and employment. Examples of activities include:

Year 7 – Meet an Author

Year 8 – What's My Line?

Year 9 – Careers Networking Morning

Year 10 – Business Day - visits to businesses in the Guildford area

Year 11 – Practice interviews

Year 12 – Work Experience

Year 13 – Face to face networking

Every year group benefits from meaningful encounters with employers through these embedded activities in addition to any ad hoc events that are arranged. Students regularly meet professionals from a wide variety of sectors, helping them to understand the opportunities available and the skills and qualities valued by employers.

Twice each year, the school holds a whole-school Careers Day, during which every lesson begins with a 15-minute careers starter linked to the subject being studied. Meeting Gatsby Benchmark 4, these activities help students make meaningful connections between classroom learning and future careers, exploring topics such as transferable skills, careers related to individual subjects, apprenticeship pathways and the application of subject knowledge in the workplace. This approach reinforces the message that every subject can open doors to a wide range of future opportunities.

From Years 7 to 11, students follow a structured tutor-time careers programme that develops career management skills, transferable skills and knowledge of the changing world of work. This is complemented by assemblies and encounters with employers, further education/technical/land colleges, universities and apprenticeship providers, enabling students to explore the full range of post-16 and post-18 pathways.

In the Sixth Form, students take part in a dedicated Careers and Skills Programme that supports them in planning their next steps. Through careers education sessions, employer encounters, networking opportunities, a work experience week, volunteering and individual careers guidance, students develop the research, employability and decision-making skills needed to make successful transitions beyond school.

Personal careers guidance is a central element of the careers programme. Students are able to access careers guidance at any stage of their school journey, with additional support available whenever needed. Structured careers guidance forms part of key transition points, with all students receiving guidance in Year 9, either in small groups or individually, to support GCSE option choices. One to one guidance take place in Year 11 to explore post-16 pathways and in Year 12 to plan for higher education, apprenticeships and employment after Sixth Form. Selected Year 10 students also receive one-to-one guidance to provide early support with career planning and progression.

Student and Parent/Carer voice

Student and parent/carers voice are central to the ongoing review and development of the careers programme at St Peter's. Feedback is gathered following every significant careers activity, including employer encounters, careers events, workshops and work experience. This enables the Careers Lead to evaluate impact, celebrate successes and identify opportunities for further development.

At the end of each academic year, students in every year group complete the Compass+ Future Skills Questionnaire. The survey provides valuable insight into students' confidence, aspirations, career readiness and perceptions of the careers programme, helping to identify strengths and areas for improvement. The findings are used alongside event evaluations to shape future planning and ensure the programme continues to meet the needs of all learners.

Parents and carers are recognised as key partners in their child's career development. Through the termly careers newsletter, they are regularly invited to complete surveys that gather feedback on the school's careers provision, their awareness of post-16 and post-18 pathways and the support they would value in helping their child make informed career decisions.

Feedback from both students and parents/carers is reviewed annually and directly informs the development of the careers programme. This commitment to listening and responding ensures that the programme remains relevant, inclusive and responsive to the changing needs of students, families and the evolving world of work.

Quality Assurance

St Peter's Catholic School has held the national **Quality in Careers Standard** since 2009, demonstrating a long-standing commitment to delivering high-quality careers education, information, advice and guidance. The school was most recently reaccredited in 2023 by the **Investor in Careers Licensed Awarding Body**, recognising the continued strength of its careers programme and its commitment to continuous improvement.

The **Quality in Careers Standard** has played an important role in the strategic development of CEIAG at St Peter's. The accreditation process provides valuable external validation while encouraging regular self-evaluation, innovation and the sharing of best practice. It has helped ensure that the careers programme continues to evolve in response to the changing needs of students, employers and the wider education landscape.

The 2023 assessment recognised the exceptional quality of the school's careers provision, describing it as "an excellent submission" with "many examples of exemplary practice." The assessor praised the school's "whole school" approach, commenting:

"The 'whole school' approach to CEIAG being integral to everything else the school delivers is fantastic and the commitment of the Governor, Head Teacher, Deputy Head and all staff ensures that the careers team have the support, budget and time to run an exemplary careers programme."

The report also recognised the school's commitment to continual development, stating:

"The commitment to review and evaluation has ensured that the school has not 'stood still' since the last assessment and the drive for continuous improvement has led to some excellent and innovative developments."

Most importantly, the assessment highlighted the positive impact of the programme on students:

"Students at St Peter's talked very favourably about the careers programme. The CEIAG at St Peter's fully equips students to make informed, aspirational and positive decisions about their future."

The assessor concluded that St Peter's had fully met all the accreditation criteria for the Standard incorporating the Gatsby Benchmarks, with no significant areas for development identified, reflecting the school's long-standing commitment to providing every student with an outstanding careers education that prepares them for successful futures.

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