



## Subject: English

### Rationale

We believe that a secure basis in literacy skills is crucial to a high quality education and will give our children the tools they need to participate fully as members of society.

Our children will leave the school in Year 6 with the ability to access learning throughout their life. They will be able to read, write, express themselves through confident speech and understand the structure of language. In addition to these basic skills that will equip the children for life, we endeavour to build a love for literature, a love of stories and inspire our children to read and write for enjoyment.

It is our aim to develop a desire in our children to pick up a book, to persevere and find that satisfaction in completing a novel.

### Characteristics of Well-rounded Orators, Readers and Writers (Curriculum Aims)

The national curriculum for English aims to ensure that all pupils:

- read easily, fluently and with good understanding
- develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information
- acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage
- write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences
- use discussion in order to learn; they should be able to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas
- are competent in the arts of speaking and listening, making formal presentations, demonstrating to others and participating in debate

### Curriculum Intent

We believe that a quality English curriculum should develop children's love of reading, writing and discussion. We aim to inspire an appreciation of our rich and varied literary heritage and a habit of reading widely and often. We recognise the importance of nurturing a culture where children take pride in their writing, can write clearly and accurately and adapt their language and style for a range of contexts. We want to inspire children to be confident in the art of speaking and listening and who can use discussion to communicate and further their learning. We believe that children need to develop a secure knowledge-base in literacy, which follows a clear pathway of progression as they advance through the primary curriculum

Within our school, English is not only a daily discrete lesson; it is the cornerstone of the entire curriculum. It is embedded within all our lessons and we strive for a high level of English for all.

### Curriculum Implementation

We use the Power of Reading as a basis for our reading and writing curriculum. The resource bank available to teachers is vast and reflects the ever-changing literary landscape. Children are exposed to heritage texts as well as contemporary authors. The teachers select high quality texts, which will engage their pupils, books in which they can see themselves and also make links to our humanities curriculum where possible. These books are at the core of our English planning and teachers then plan stimulating lessons, using and adapting the Power of Reading's teaching sequences, weaving in appropriate grammar skills. These texts, also support our PSHE curriculum and allow children to explore sensitive issues through stories together whilst developing the children's love of books through drama, speaking and listening and writing activities. Children have many opportunities to discuss, debate and develop their ideas. All classes build up their stamina across the curriculum through planning, drafting, proof-reading and suggesting improvements to their own and others' writing. Children are also encouraged to speak clearly, confidently and with expression in order to communicate ideas and to listen to others and respond appropriately.

### Curriculum Impact

As a result, we have a community of enthusiastic readers and writers who enjoy showcasing their developing literacy knowledge and skills. They are confident to take risks in their reading and writing, and love to discuss and share their ideas.

Along with the use of Power of Reading to teach English, we also use a wealth of other resources and strategies to achieve the aims outlined. We ensure our teaching is engaging and exciting, using technology to inspire and develop skills. We continually research pedagogies and through the lesson study approach, we assess the most effective ways of teaching this subject.