

St John the Baptist Primary School

RESPECT, RESILIENCE, READINESS

English Curriculum Intent Statement

Intent

At St John the Baptist School we know that English is a vital way of communicating and interacting, and at St John the Baptist we know our children need these skills to fully access and understand the wider curriculum. Through speaking and listening, reading and writing we are ambitious in children learning to express themselves creatively and imaginatively and communicate with others effectively.

The study of English helps children, regardless of background or ability, understand how language works by looking at its patterns, structures and origins. Using this knowledge, pupils can choose and adapt what they say and write in different situations.

We believe that the study of English should enable pupils:

- To appreciate how speaking and listening, reading and writing are integrated.
- To develop their ability to communicate orally for a range of purposes and audiences.
- To become confident, thoughtful and enthusiastic readers who read for pleasure.
- To use a wide variety of writing styles and genres, so communicating effectively in written forms.
- To practise their handwriting and other presentational skills.

Implementation

Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1

Through reading and focused vocabulary lessons (including Word Aware), pupils are introduced to new vocabulary that can then be used in their own writing and speech. We foster our love of reading through providing a rich environment which stimulates and encourages children's reading. We believe in engaging all pupils and have a variety of resources in each class including puppets, story sacks, role play resources and books to develop different interests of the children. From the Foundation Stage and into Key Stage 1 pupils will enjoy a carefully planned range of quality texts allowing them to build up knowledge of rhythm, rhyme and pattern in language whilst fostering a love of stories and reading.

Phonics

The teaching of phonics is an integral part of the curriculum in both the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 classrooms. Children first learn their letter sounds and names then apply these to word building. We use both Letters and Sounds and Jolly Phonics actions as the basis for our teaching of phonics. These are both recognised as synthetic phonic schemes. Through Letters and Sounds, the children are taught the 44 phonemes that make up all the sounds required for reading and spelling. These phonemes include those made by just one letter and those that are made by two or more. As the children grow in confidence and experience, they are introduced to alternative ways of representing the same sound. The teaching of phonics is of high priority to all teachers as it enables pupils to decode for reading and encode for spelling. We ensure that our teaching of phonics is rigorous, structured and enjoyable. Children have discrete, daily phonics sessions where they are introduced to new phonemes, can practise and revise previous learning and have plenty of opportunities to apply the knowledge they have through quality fully decodable books.

We use a range of multisensory strategies to enthuse and engage the children, including the use of interactive whiteboards, magnetic letters, speaking and listening, songs, rhymes and practical games and

activities. Children work with pace and are encouraged to apply their knowledge across the curriculum with any reading or writing activities. The children also learn a variety of key words by sight. Children read individually, in small groups and as a whole class. A variety of different genres are chosen at an appropriate level of ability for each group of children. As well as being able to read the text, children are encouraged to discuss the content of the book and their opinions about people, places and events are sought. Children then use the learned skills and knowledge to apply it to writing for a range of purposes and in a variety of genres.

Key Stage 2

Through independent reading, shared reading in English lessons and cross-curricular sessions, guided reading groups and reading for pleasure, reading in Key Stage 2 develops and extends the skills acquired in Key Stage 1. Children explore a wide variety of genre which are carefully planned and chosen for each year group of both fiction and non-fiction which allows them to access, input ideas and understand what they are reading. They are given opportunities to speculate on the tone and purpose of texts they explore as well as consider both the texts' themes and audience. High expectations of quality writing with audience and purpose in mind ensures our children will become confident writers.

Impact

At St John the Baptist Primary School we believe that through theme-based learning and carefully chosen literature the children have the opportunity to leave Year 6 with a love of English as well as the skills needed for the next stage of their education. Children will have developed resilience when faced with challenging texts and vocabulary. They will have developed respect for other people's opinions and authorial choices. Ultimately, through our English teaching, children will have the readiness to access the curriculum and the wider world.

