

St Anne's C of E Primary School

English Policy

Aims and values of school



'Flourishing through love'

'Let all that you do be done in love' – 1 Corinthians 16:14

Introduction

At St Anne's Primary School, we recognise that English forms the basis for all learning and that strength in oracy, reading and writing enables children to make the most of all other subjects and are all interconnected. The strategic teaching of English develops children's ability to listen, speak, read and write for a wide range of purposes and contexts. Children are enabled to express themselves creatively and imaginatively as they become enthusiastic and critical readers of stories, poetry and dramatic texts, as well as of non-fiction and media texts. Children gain an understanding of how language works by looking at its patterns, structures and origins. Children use their knowledge, skills and understanding across a range of different situations.

Intent

During their time at St Anne's we wish all our pupils to learn to use English to a high standard when speaking, reading and writing, so that, by the end of Year Six they are equipped with a strong command of the written and spoken word and have acquired a love of literature through the widespread reading for enjoyment.

We believe that a successful English curriculum will develop the children's love of reading, writing and discussion. We actively promote reading for pleasure and ensure the children have access to a wide variety of high quality texts for both adult-led and independent reading.

We recognise the importance of nurturing a culture in which children take pride in their writing and we support them to develop the skills needed to write clearly and accurately. A focus on enhancing vocabulary and developing oral skills means that our children are able to adapt their language and style to be appropriate for a broad range of activities. We wish to inspire children to be confident in the art of speaking and listening and to be able to discuss and debate in order to communicate effectively and further their learning.

We believe that children need to develop a secure knowledge-base in literacy skills, which follows a clear pathway of progression as they advance through the primary curriculum. 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 succeed.

Implementation

We ensure that our English teaching and learning provides numerous purposeful opportunities for reading, writing and discussion. We use a wide variety of experiences, quality texts and resources to motivate and inspire our children. Reading has a high priority and is taught through a mixture of guided groups and whole class reading sessions. Teachers ensure that cross curricular links with current topic work are included as appropriate.

- Pupils in EYFS and KS1 have daily phonics lessons. Phonics and early reading is taught using Floppy's Phonics (DfE approved) resources. This is supported by the use of phonetically based reading books which are part of the Floppy's Phonics Scheme.
- Teachers create a positive reading and writing culture in school, where both are promoted, enjoyed and aimed at being enjoyed by all pupils.
- Teachers in all year groups promote reading for pleasure by reading out loud regularly to their own classes.
- Pupils are given regular opportunities to develop their communication skills, to discuss and to present their ideas to each other and when appropriate participate in with role-play, improvisations and drama, which has the added bonus of supporting writing.
- Literacy working walls in each class promote key vocabulary, features of texts and support children to compose and record text at an age appropriate level. Pupils are encouraged use correct terminology to match the subject of their writing (ie in cross curricular writing use of technical vocabulary) and to be adventurous with vocabulary choices.
- Word banks and other visual supports are used where needed to support independent writing. Age appropriate thesauruses and dictionaries are easily accessible for pupils to use.
- A range of genres is taught across the school both in English and other curriculum areas, resulting in pupils being exposed to and knowledgeable about, literary styles, authors and genres.
- Information about the various elements of English teaching and learning is available to read on the school website.
- The teaching of vocabulary, spelling and grammar is embedded in English lessons throughout the year groups.
- From year 2 No Nonsense Spelling is used for the teaching of spelling across all year groups, though the children have access to further terminology and vocabulary to enhance the teaching of all curriculum areas and ensure the children's technical vocabulary is developed.

Impact

The impact on our children is clear: progress, sustained learning and transferrable skills. With the implementation of the writing journey being well established and taught thoroughly throughout the key stages, children are becoming more confident writers and by the time they are in upper Key Stage 2, most genres of writing are familiar to them and the teaching can focus on creativity, writer's craft, sustained writing and manipulation of grammar and punctuation skills. As all aspects of English are an integral part of the curriculum, cross curricular writing standards have also improved and skills taught in the English lesson are transferred into other subjects; this shows consolidation of skills and a deeper understanding of how and when to use specific grammar and punctuation.