



# St Nicholas' Primary and Nursery School

*Live, Love, Learn & Be Happy*

## English

### Curriculum Intent

The overarching aim for English in the National Curriculum is to promote high standards of language and literacy by equipping pupils with a strong command of the spoken and written word, and to develop their love of literature through widespread reading for enjoyment and purpose. The effectiveness of English teaching determines the success of the whole curriculum.

Language is cross-curricular - it is an essential element of learning in all areas of the curriculum. We follow the National Curriculum and believe the development of literacy skills is best ensured by providing a rich and varied linguistic environment.

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.

#### Our English Curriculum

It is our intention when teaching the English curriculum that our pupils acquire the necessary knowledge, skills and understanding to become lifelong learners and linguists. We strive to ensure that all our pupils receive a well-rounded learning experience when reading, writing, speaking and listening which will

equip them with the fundamental tools to achieve in school and beyond. It is our intention to immerse pupils in the wonders of quality texts to instil a love for reading, a passion for discovery and a confidence to explore their imagination through our text-led English curriculum. English is a core subject of the National Curriculum and a prerequisite for educational and social progress as it underpins the work undertaken in all areas of the curriculum.

## Implementation

In EYFS and KS1 all children receive a daily discrete phonics lesson. We use the **Read Write Inc (RWI) scheme and resources to teach phonics and, then in Year 2, spelling which enables children to receive small group teaching at the level appropriate to them. We group our children across the phase to enable this and formally assess them on a termly basis to identify progress. In KS2, children continue to follow the Read Write Inc Spelling scheme which covers the age appropriate spelling and grammar content of the National Curriculum.**

The skills taught through RWI are then reinforced and extended within our daily English lessons.

### **Reading**

Reading is a key tool for life. Teaching children to become confident and fluent readers, by developing a love and passion for reading is a large and exciting part of what we do at St Nicholas Primary and Nursery School. We have lots of opportunities for reading exciting books and materials. We use **Read Write Inc** phonics daily across EYFS and KS1. This is supported by discrete English teaching in addition. This is a mixture of learning about reading, writing and speaking and listening, which includes a variety of text types and genres.

A wide range of stories and genres is read frequently in class to inspire a life-long enthusiasm for books and all that they offer children and adults alike. From Reception onwards, children enjoy regular guided or whole class reading sessions using high-quality texts that engage the listener, develop a breadth of vocabulary and support ideas for writing. We ensure that children are continually being encouraged to read for pleasure through events such as celebrating World Book Day and enjoying our annual Book at Bedtime event.

To develop children's reading skills in the Early Years and Key Stage 1 we use a range of reading scheme books graded by Book Bands as well as the RWI Book Bag books, which provide the children with reading material that is pitched at exactly the right level.

High-quality texts linked to curriculum themes drive our English Curriculum. They are also used within daily whole-class shared and guided reading sessions.

## **Writing**

Writing is an essential part of our curriculum offer and of high importance at St Nicholas Primary and Nursery School. In EYFS children learn how to hold a pencil correctly and begin to form letters, words and sentences. From Year 1, children are introduced to a joined style of handwriting (continuous cursive) as soon as the child is able to correctly form letters, with the expectation that during Key Stage 1 most will be able to write neatly and fluently. During Key Stage 2 the children will continue to have regular practice to ensure they develop a fluent style.

The teaching of writing in our school predominantly follows a Talk for Writing and Storytelling approach. Children are exposed to range of non-fiction and fiction genres and writing purposes, which includes the teaching of spelling, grammar and punctuation. The children are continuously being encouraged to plan, draft and edit their work and are given regular opportunities to write at length across the curriculum.

Writing is always taught in context and where appropriate links are made to our curriculum topics; finding real-life purposes for children's writing to enthuse and engage them.

## **Speaking and Listening**

We support our children in developing the skills necessary to read, write and speak fluently to communicate their ideas and emotions. Through our exciting and engaging curriculum and specifically P4C (Philosophy for Children), we actively encourage our children to communicate their thoughts and ideas. Children are given the opportunity to reflect on both their learning and feelings and express themselves appropriately in these contexts.

## Impact

The impact of our curriculum on our children is clear: progress, sustained learning and transferrable skills. With the implementation of a consistent and clear writing journey being established and taught in all phases from EYFS to Key Stage 2, children are becoming more confident writers and, by the time they leave St Nick's, they are familiar with a wide range of genres.

Our assessment points (3 times per year) show that children are progressing in reading and writing and we continue to work to ensure that the progress in those areas is more in line with each other. Writing is a key focus of our School Development Plan in order to support this. Each year children leave KS1 and KS2 achieving greater depth in reading and we are working hard to emulate that in writing.

As all aspects of English are an integral part of our enquiry based curriculum, cross curricular writing standards are improving and, as the enquiry curriculum develops, we are working to ensure that that progress is sustained and improved. Children are able to transfer and, therefore, consolidate their skills in grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

The impact of our curriculum and its implementation is that our children move on to their next educational setting with creativity, a passion for English and the confidence to take their skills and learning forwards and continue to grow and develop those skills as they do.

<b>Acceptance</b>	<b>Appreciation</b>	<b>Caring</b>	<b>Creativity</b>
<b>Encouragement</b>	<b>Forgiveness</b>	<b>Honesty</b>	<b>Independence</b>
<b>Inspiration</b>	<b>Kindness</b>	<b>Respect</b>	<b>Teamwork</b>