



Curriculum statement for English

Subject aims: what do we want the children to learn and why

At Whipton Barton, English and the teaching of English is a foundation of our curriculum. We believe all children should have the opportunity to be fluent, confident readers who are able to successfully comprehend and understand a wide range of texts. We want pupils to develop a love of reading for pleasure as well as develop the use of reading as a tool across their learning and in the wider world. All pupils should be able to confidently communicate their knowledge, ideas and emotions through their writing. We want pupils to acquire a wide vocabulary, a solid understanding of grammar and be able to spell new words through the application of spelling patterns and rules they are taught. We want them to write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences. This is embedded in the wider curriculum through using high-quality texts and immersing children in vocabulary rich learning environments. Therefore, children are exposed to a curriculum which will not only enable them to become literate but will also develop a love of reading, creative writing and purposeful speaking and listening.

How the subject is organised and taught

Phonics, early reading and writing is taught through the 'Read, Write Inc.' scheme of learning. Children across EYFS and KS1 are regularly assessed and grouped according to their specific need allowing for teaching to be matched exactly to each group of children. This also allows for groupings to change regularly so no child has a ceiling put on their learning and those who are progressing more slowly are identified quickly for more support and/or intervention. In year 2, children are also given the opportunity to write extended pieces of writing in other curriculum areas which allow them to apply the skills they have been taught. In KS2, guided reading and writing are taught in a whole class context so that all children have access to the age-related skills and knowledge contained in the National Curriculum. We use 'Accelerated Reader' to monitor children's individual reading and ensure children are reading appropriate books for their level of fluency and understanding. Reading for pleasure is prioritised through dedicated sessions in KS2 and through the use of 'Favourite Five' book choices in EYFS and KS1. Writing is also taught in sequences alternating between fiction and non-fiction to ensure children have the opportunity to practise and apply skills in different contexts while developing their knowledge and understanding of the purpose of different genres. The progression of objectives has been mapped within and across year groups and texts which exemplify these objectives have been chosen to demonstrate this. In KS2 spelling is taught according to the rules and words contained in Appendix 1 of the English National Curriculum through the 'No Nonsense Spelling' programme.

What subject-specific characteristics do we want children to develop?

That children will enjoy reading and writing across a range of genres.

That children will have a wider vocabulary which they feel confident to use in speech and writing.

That children can adapt their reading and writing to suit different audiences and purposes, reading fluently and with expression and applying different features and grammatical techniques with confidence in writing.

That children can apply spelling rules and patterns that they have been taught.