

English at St. Bernadette's.

Intent

At Bernadette's Primary school, we are dedicated to encouraging all pupils to be passionate about reading and writing. We are determined that ALL pupils will become highly competent readers and writers by the end of their time with us. It is our intention to immerse them in the wonders of quality texts to instil a love for reading, a passion for discovery and a confidence to explore their imagination.

During their time at St. Bernadette's, all pupils will be exposed to a high-quality education in English. This will not only teach them to speak and write fluently but will also enable them to communicate their ideas and emotions to others effectively.

All children from Nursery to Year 6 are provided with many opportunities to develop and apply their writing skills across the curriculum. Our intention is that pupils can plan, revise and evaluate their writing through focusing on developing effective transcription and composition. They will develop an awareness of the audience, purpose and context, and an increasingly wide knowledge of vocabulary and grammar. We also intend for pupils to leave school being able to use fluent, legible and speedy handwriting.

Through reading, our pupils will have a chance to develop culturally, emotionally, intellectually, socially and spiritually. Literature, especially, plays a key role in such development. Reading also enables our pupils both to acquire knowledge and to build on what they already know and develop a thirst for knowledge. All the skills of language are essential to participating fully as a member of our school community and the wider society.

Reading

Statutory Requirements

Statutory requirements for the teaching and learning of English are laid out in the National Curriculum English Document (2014) and in the Communication and Language and Literacy sections of the revised Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2014).

In the Foundation Stage (Reception)

Children are given opportunities to:

- Speak and listen and represent ideas in their activities;
- Use communication, language and literacy in every part of the curriculum;
- Become immersed in an environment rich in print and opportunities to communicate.

At Key Stage One (Years 1 and 2)

Children learn to speak confidently and listen to what others have to say. They learn to read and write independently and with enthusiasm. They learn to use language to explore their own experiences and imaginary worlds.

At Key Stage Two (Years 3-6)

Children learn to change the way they speak and write to suit different situations, purposes and audiences. They read a range of texts and respond to different layers of meaning in them. They explore the use of language in literary and non-literary texts and learn how the structure of language works.

English is a core subject in the National Curriculum. All learning takes place through the use of language which gives English a special place within St Bernadette's curriculum, we firmly believe that it is during a child's primary education that the foundation of all aspects of English are laid.

The teaching of English embraces all aspects of language, both spoken and written. In the literate society in which we live an ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in the written word, and to read a wide range of different types of text, is essential if children are to achieve their full potential throughout their school days and on into adult life.

Implementation

The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all teaching staff and the Governing Body receive regular reports on the progress of English provision.

At Foundation Stage, literacy is taught as an integral part of our school day and the planning provides children with the opportunity to:

- Talk and communicate in an increasingly wide range of situations
- Respond to adults and each other
- Listen carefully
- Practise and extend their vocabulary and communication skills
- Explore words and texts
- Daily teaching and reinforcement of phonics

At Key Stage One and Two there are unit plans for English lessons, which reflect the teaching required to meet the learning objectives. Planning is differentiated to meet the needs of the children, as appropriate.

At Saint Bernadette's we believe that these plans are working documents that will be amended during the life of the given unit of work, in order to reflect the progress and assessment of learning along the way. Reading and spelling are also planned for.

Impact

We strive to ensure that our children's attainment is in line with or exceeds their potential when we consider the varied starting points of all our children. We measure this using Statutory Moderation Tools and all teachers attend and take part in termly moderation exercises throughout the year to support them with their judgements. The analysis of this moderation is used to identify areas of development and any children who are not making expected progress.

Whilst always considering the age-related expectations for each year group, our intentions are that our English curriculum will ensure our pupils are academically prepared for life beyond primary school and throughout their educational journey.

