

Fulmer Infant School

English Policy



Intent

At Fulmer Infant School, we believe that English skills are fundamental to both academic achievement and personal well-being, as well as lifelong success. Our English curriculum is designed to promote high standards of language and literacy, equipping pupils with robust skills in both spoken and written communication. We are committed to fostering a love of literature, encouraging reading for pleasure alongside academic inquiry.

Our English policy has the following key objectives:

- They are encouraged to read easily, fluently, and with comprehensive understanding by completing our Little Wandle Phonics and Fluency programme.
- All learners, irrespective of their starting points or needs, have access to a rich English curriculum.
- Targeted interventions are available for pupils struggling with literacy to ensure they can access the full curriculum.
- Texts and materials that reflect the diverse backgrounds of our pupils are incorporated into the curriculum. This ensures that all children see themselves represented in the literature they study.
- We aim to instil a habit of reading widely, promoting enjoyment as well as the pursuit of information.
- Pupils will acquire a broad vocabulary and a solid grounding in grammar, alongside knowledge of linguistic conventions.
- Children are taught to write clearly, accurately, and coherently, adapting their language and style for various contexts and audiences.
- Discussions are encouraged to enhance learning, enabling pupils to elaborate and articulate their understanding and ideas with clarity.
- Competence in speaking and listening skills is fostered, enabling participation in presentations and debates.
- We strive for progress in spelling, encouraging neat, legible joined handwriting.

- Pupils will learn to make fair, critical evaluations of their own work, the work of peers, and the writings of renowned authors and poets.
- Finally, we promote effective organisation in presenting ideas through planning, drafting, and editing.

Through these objectives, we aim to nurture confident communicators and critical thinkers, prepared for the challenges of Key Stage 2 and beyond.

Implementation

At Fulmer Infant School, we ensure that our English teaching and learning provides many purposeful opportunities for reading, writing and discussion. We use a wide variety of experiences, quality texts and resources to motivate and inspire our children.

- Our systematic synthetic phonics programme is delivered daily, enabling children to decode and encode words effectively. Guided reading sessions are tailored to each child's level, ensuring targeted progress in comprehension skills (please refer to our Phonics & Early Reading policy).
- Pupils receive a daily English lesson. Teachers also ensure that cross curricular links with concurrent topic work are woven into the programme of study. We establish a vibrant reading culture within the school, including daily book club sessions, reading volunteers for whole class and individual reading. In Reception, parents are encouraged to 'come read with me' sessions and become a 'secret reader'.
- Promotion of reading continues, through teachers reading out loud regularly to their class during shared reading sessions.
- Pupils to acquire strategies to enable them to become independent learners in English, e.g. learning spelling rules and patterns and how to tackle unfamiliar words when reading.
- Pupils discuss and present their ideas to each other by talking, being able to elaborate and explain themselves clearly, make presentations and participating in debates.
- Vocabulary acquisition is promoted through working walls and displays in class. This is across all curriculum areas, enhancing and encouraging a wider use of vocabulary.

- Vocabulary mats are used when needed and thesauruses and dictionaries are easily accessible for pupils to use.
- Reading and writing events throughout the year encourage and promote enjoyment and opportunities to develop lifelong learning. All year groups participate in 'Shakespeare Week' during the Summer Term.
- Children are encouraged to write for different purposes and audiences, incorporating creativity and originality into their work.
- When pupils are ready to join letters, hand writing pens are introduced.
- Editing is taught as an essential skill to continually improve work and writing.
- We utilise formative assessments to monitor children's progress and inform our teaching. Feedback is specific and actionable, promoting a clear understanding of the next steps in their learning.
- We celebrate achievements through class sharing sessions, celebration assemblies and displays.

Impact

The impact of our English curriculum can be evidenced through various measures:

- **Reading Proficiency Levels:** Most children achieve or exceed age-related expectations in reading by the end of Key Stage 1, evidenced through national assessments and internal data tracking. Our phonics screening results consistently reflect above-average outcomes.
- **Writing Standards:** Children demonstrate a growing confidence and ability in writing, with many producing creative, cohesive pieces that reflect their voice and individuality. Evidence from writing assessments indicates that children are developing age-appropriate skills in composition, punctuation, and spelling.
- **Engagement and Enthusiasm:** Children are highly engaged and motivated in their English lessons. They show enthusiasm for independent reading and writing activities, often seeking opportunities to share their work.
- **Parental Involvement:** We have established strong partnerships with parents, encouraging them to support their children's literacy at home. Information

sessions have led to increased parental engagement in reading and writing activities.

- **Cultural Literacy:** Children are able to discuss and reflect on a variety of texts, demonstrating their understanding of different perspectives and cultural contexts. Their exposure to diverse literature fosters empathy and broadens their worldview.

In conclusion, through our thoughtful approach to the intent, implementation, and impact of our English curriculum, we ensure that children at our School not only meet expected standards but also develop a lifelong love of literacy and learning.

Policy Updated: November 2024

Policy Review: November 2027