

English at St James CE Primary School



Intent

We expect pupils to be avid readers who read fluently, widely and can express preferences and opinions about the texts. We want to produce children who write confidently and accurately whilst developing their own individual flair. We want our children to be able to write with grammatical accuracy and to apply spelling patterns correctly using a neat handwriting style. We expose our children to a wide range of vocabulary so that they are able to decipher new words and then use them when speaking both informally and formally.

Curriculum

We teach phonics through Read Write Inc which is a phonic scheme that ensures a systematic approach to teaching phonics. In Reception and Year 1, phonics is taught through discrete daily lessons and in Year 2 the No Nonsense Spelling Scheme is introduced. This allows for phonic knowledge to be reinforced and embedded whilst the focus is now shifted to spelling patterns.

Talk for Writing is powerful because it enables children to imitate the language they need for a particular topic orally before reading and analysing it and then writing their own version. It builds on 3 key stages: Imitation, Innovation and Invention. This process also helps the children internalise the toolkit for such writing so that it becomes a practical flexible toolkit in the head rather than a list to be looked at and blindly followed. At the end of the unit, the children's work should be published or displayed. The teacher will now have a good picture of what features to focus on in the next unit to move the children forward.

Spelling: The No Nonsense Spelling Programme offers a comprehensive yet accessible progression in the teaching of spelling. The focus of the programme is on the teaching of spelling, which embraces knowledge of spelling conventions – patterns and rules; but integral to the teaching is the opportunity to promote the learning of spellings, including statutory words, common exceptions and personal spellings.

Implementation

How is it taught?

Reading

From Year 2 onwards, children take part in daily reading lessons where they are taught the wider skills of reading once they have secured their phonetical understanding. They are given the opportunity to look at texts in more depth and practise a range of reading skills to support their comprehension development. Children have access to a range of texts including non-fiction, fiction, poetry, magazines, newspapers etc to widen their reading experiences. We also ensure that reading is given high priority in other curriculum areas as we understand how important reading is in order to access learning in other subject disciplines.

Writing

St James CE Primary School uses:

- Nelson Handwriting scheme from Reception to Y6.
- The No Nonsense Spelling Programme offers a comprehensive yet accessible progression in the teaching of spelling.

The focus of the programme is on the teaching of spelling, which embraces knowledge of spelling conventions – patterns and rules; but integral to the teaching is the opportunity to promote the learning of spellings, including statutory words, common exceptions and personal spellings. The programme has clear progression through blocks of teaching units across the year.

Support:

Every child is given scaffolding for learning in terms of the guided and shared practice in reading and writing throughout the learning process. Questioning techniques and other pedagogical techniques are central to the manipulation of learning opportunities for all pupils. Interventions are used to support those pupils who are may need additional support.

Impact

How do we know our children have learnt more and remembered more?

Regular recall activities and opportunities to read and write in a variety of genres and for varied and meaningful reasons.

Making writing and reading fun and motivating is an essential part of the learning journey in English. Drama and regular speaking and listening activities across the curriculum are integral to the core of learning in the English curriculum offered at St James CE Primary School.

Regular assessment of reading and writing enables teachers to review and reshape the learning journey according to the needs of the children in each year group—including standardised tests and formative assessments.

What are we aiming for?

A high-quality education in English will teach pupils to speak and write fluently so that they can communicate their ideas and emotions to others, and through their reading and listening, others can communicate with them. Through reading in particular, pupils have a chance to develop culturally, emotionally, intellectually, socially and spiritually. Literature, especially, plays a key role in such development. Reading also enables pupils both to acquire knowledge and to build on what they already know. All the skills of language are essential to participating fully as a member of society.

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 language, and to develop their love of literature through widespread reading for enjoyment. This is the clear goal for all our pupils at St James CE Primary School.