



Here at St Paul's CE Primary School, we are proud to provide excellent care and outstanding education for children from three to eleven years old in our unique, picturesque setting. Our Christian vision is at the heart of all we do, and we endeavour to provide a personalised curriculum to each and every child.

Our small class sizes allow us to give each child a high level of support and guidance. We take care to ensure that we know every child's starting points and we adapt our teaching to meet their needs, meaning every pupil is experiencing challenge and success.

We work hard to tailor the curriculum so it is bespoke to our children, supports their journey to becoming competent and avid readers and writers and provide opportunities for them to read and write for a variety of audiences.

Our 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.'



At St Paul's we believe in creating a love for reading and writing. We aspire that all our children will develop a lifelong appreciation of and desire for quality literature. We believe that the study of English develops children's abilities to listen, speak, read and write for a wide range of purposes.

As well as enabling children to express themselves creatively and imaginatively. We want every child to know that writing is for them: a powerful tool, a source of joy, a lifelong skill, a potential career. This journey begins with becoming a reader: a fluent reader; a confident reader; an avid reader. Discussion and oracy are a key vehicle for the development of reading and writing skills. We want our children to be enthusiastic and critical readers of stories, poetry and drama, as well as non-fiction and media texts.

"Reading is magic. Writing is also magic. Narrative helps us to understand ourselves and our world." Pie Corbett

"Reading and writing sits on a sea of talk." James Britton

We strive to teach all our children to read and to enjoy a variety of texts so that they will become independent, critical, fluent, life-long readers and learners.

We believe reading is a vital skill and this belief underpins the huge emphasis we place on the teaching of reading in our school.

We believe it is imperative that children learn to read, allowing them to then read to learn.

Reading is a powerful tool and the very medium of our knowledge and vocabulary rich curriculum, reading therefore unlocks learning in the rest of the curriculum, and also secures future success and lifelong learning.

This focus on reading is promoted through an immersive culture of literature rich environments and a curriculum that will in turn impact the children's writing ability. We aim to develop within our children an ability to write effectively in various forms according to purpose and audience. They will be encouraged to develop as independent writers, learning over time to use effective transcription and composition skills. Pupils will be taught how to plan, revise, draft and review their writing; forming, articulating and communicating ideas, and organising them coherently for a reader.

Implementation

Reading

Early Reading is taught through phonics – please see our phonics curriculum. As children develop fluency and autonomy, our reading curriculum then challenges, inspires and motivates our children while focusing on teaching comprehension skills.

Any children who have not met the phonics standard by the end of KS2 will engage in interventions to catch up.

Children also have access to guided reading / shared reading sessions – once fluent readers have adequately finished the phonics reading scheme they experience reading teaching through daily class stories, through paired reading with an older reading buddy and through our shared reading.

Where children are still accessing phonics, guided reading sessions, in line with the phonics reading scheme are taught to overlearn and develop fluency, intonation with a bigger comprehension focus to develop reading for meaning.

As children complete phonics, with fluency and autonomy in reading, they begin our shared reading scheme. These lessons provide ambitious, quality reading materials and activities to promote the skills and understanding behind what it means to be an effective reader. It is an immersive experience allowing all children to access texts with ambitious vocabulary and providing modelling of how to read with fluency and intonation and how to use reading skills to make meaning of the text. There is also a practise and application element of the lesson.

Writing

During our daily English lessons we follow the Literacy Counts planning and learning scheme. This scheme is based around quality texts we know will engage and inspire our pupils. This is to ensure our children develop a love of language and become capable, confident writers. This scheme has a high focus on reading for pleasure and enjoyment, new vocabulary as well as providing the children with excellent models for their own writing.

Our English writing curriculum is built around units of work that follow a mastery approach to the teaching of writing. Each unit covers a range of areas in the national curriculum:

- Mastery of vocabulary, grammar and punctuation skills
- Writing a range of genres across a year
- Vocabulary development
- Using a wider range of reading comprehension strategies as a whole class
- Spoken language activities including drama and presentations
- Opportunities for practising previously taught genres
- Producing an extended, independent piece of writing

Children explore example texts and vocabulary, they complete smaller writing activities focussed on a particular skill. They then apply these skills to an extended writing piece.

Impact

- We ensure that all our children have the best possible start to early reading.
- Children will become fluent phonics decoders by the end of Key Stage 1. For those children who need to consolidate their knowledge and skills further, Key Stage 2 provides support based on individual children's needs.
- Through the consistent pattern of the lessons and resources, the shared practise and regular, repetitive practice will ensure that all children continue to build fluency and read with expression, along with the comprehension skills to read for meaning.
- We will provide the teaching and opportunities to ensure children can write and communicate effectively.
- Writing outcomes across the curriculum illustrate the school's high expectation and children are given opportunities to write for a variety of different purposes and audiences. Writing is based on high quality texts that are engaging, meaningful and creative. The children are encouraged to be technically accurate in all their writing.

Due to small class sizes in Key Stage 1, verbal feedback is given and editing happens in the lesson. Work is also marked daily to pick up any spelling / grammar inconsistencies.

As the children write longer passages with much more independence in key stage 2, their work is marked daily to pick up grammar inconsistencies. Next steps will be used to develop composition and effect.