

Darwen St James' CE Primary Academy

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C of E Primary Academy



English Curriculum Statement

September 2017

English Curriculum Statement

At Darwen St James' CE Primary Academy, we believe that Literacy and Communication are key life skills and that it is our role, through the English curriculum, to help children develop the skills and knowledge that will enable them to communicate effectively and creatively with the world at large, through spoken and written language. Through a love of reading that is embedded within our school, we strive to help children to enjoy and appreciate literature and its rich variety.

Aims and Objectives:

As a school, we aim to promote high standards of Language and Literacy by equipping children with a strong command of the spoken and written word, and to develop their love of literature through widespread reading both across the curriculum and at home. We strive to make cross curricular links, so most aspects of English are linked to our Cornerstones topics and then further developed and embedded through them. As a school, we aim to ensure that all pupils:

- read easily, fluently and with a good understanding all genres
- develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information
- acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage
- write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences
- plan, draft, evaluate and revisit written texts
- use discussion in order to learn; they should be able to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas, especially linked to written work (Talk for Writing)
- are competent in the art of Spoken Language and Drama, making formal presentations, demonstrating to others, Role Play, Performance Poetry and participating in debate.

During the EYFS curriculum, English forms part of many interactive and engaging learning experiences to ensure pupils progress as early readers and writers. Pupils develop their knowledge and understanding of English through play, exploration, phonics and discussion, key principles outlined in our programme of study, Development Matters, topic work through Cornerstones and assessment through Tapestry. For further information see the EYFS policy.

Through Key Stage 1, children are taught in mixed ability class groups for their main English lessons. The main English lesson is planned and delivered using talk for writing strategies. All units link to our Cornerstones topic and each lesson looks at 4 areas, Engage, Develop, Innovate and Express. Children also receive 20 minutes of timetabled daily phonics, timetabled grammar sessions lasting 15 minutes, using Twinkl resources, timetabled daily handwriting using Letterjoin, a weekly comprehension session, plus timetabled Guided Reading. Progress is monitored in half termly Pupil Progress Meetings, using target Tracker as our assessment tool.

During Key Stage 2 children are taught in mixed ability groups for their daily English lessons. The main English lesson is planned and delivered using talk for writing strategies. All units link to our Cornerstones topic and each lesson looks at 4 areas, Engage, Develop, Innovate and Express. Children also receive 20 minutes of timetabled daily phonics or spellings, timetabled grammar sessions lasting 15 minutes, using Twinkl resources, timetabled daily handwriting using Letterjoin, a weekly comprehension session, plus timetabled Guided Reading. Progress is monitored in half termly Pupil Progress Meetings, using target Tracker as our assessment tool.

Through our assessment and Pupil Progress Meetings every half term, we analyse the data and act upon the information by targeted interventions.

Throughout school Spoken Language is deemed a high priority and is therefore covered in every aspect of our curriculum. To monitor our pupil's progress we use ELAT annually, as well as our regular Teacher Assessment.

To help us obtain a standardised reading age for the children, we use GL tests in the Autumn and Summer term.