

English Policy- St Cuthbert's C.E. Primary School

English has a pre-eminent place in education & in society. A high quality education in English will teach pupils to write and speak fluently so that they can communicate their ideas and emotions to others and through their reading & listening, others can communicate with them. (National Curriculum 2014)

At St Cuthbert's we recognise that:

Good English teaching is lively, engaging & involves a carefully planned blend of approaches which direct children's learning but also challenge them to think.

Opportunities should be provided for children to initiate their own learning & to use & apply the literacy skills they have been taught.

In good English teaching the pitch & pace of the work is sensitive to the rate at which the children learn whilst ensuring that expectations are kept high & progress is made by all children.

The strong interdependence between speaking, listening, reading and writing should underpin planning and provision for learning.

The acquisition of language and literacy skills are of the utmost importance and therefore the teaching of all aspects of English will be given a high priority.

Reading

Reading will be taught with reference to the guidance in the EYFS curriculum & the National Curriculum and as appropriate through guided, shared, paired or individual reading and or phonics sessions. As pupils gain fluency the forms of teaching should shift to emphasise advanced reading and comprehension skills at text level. All pupils will be given the opportunity to read to a variety of audiences, including younger children, their own class, adults and the whole school during assembly and performances.

We teach reading using synthetic phonics. A systematic daily phonic session introduces pupils to letters & sounds and pupils learn to blend & segment words.

Reading books are then given. Initially these are phonically decodable which means pupils experience a high level of success with their initial reading books.

The main schemes used in EYFS & KS1 are the new Oxford Reading Tree phonic books- Songbirds & Floppy's Phonics. These are supplemented with books from other schemes to provide breadth & variety.

In KS2 the main schemes used are Ginn Pocket Reads & Oxford Reading Tree - Treetops, but again other books are used to provide variety.

Our reading scheme gives pupils the opportunity to practise their developing reading skills with texts that have the appropriate vocabulary and sentence structure. However, pupils will have access to a range of fiction and non-fiction books and will be encouraged to read for pleasure and information.

Parents will be helped to see that they play a vital role in their child's reading development. School will suggest ways in which parents can encourage reading and children will have books to take home. Parents will be encouraged to comment on their child's reading development at home through a reading diary.

Writing

Writing will be taught following the guidance in the EYFS curriculum & the National Curriculum. Children will be given as many 'real' reasons for writing across the curriculum as possible & will write for a range of audiences and purposes. Writing will be linked with "Big Idea" planning & will be cross curricular. They will be taught the importance of re drafting & editing their work.

Handwriting

It is essential that pupils are taught correct letter formation from the outset and errors are picked up and corrected early so that they do not hamper pupils' progress. Pupils will be encouraged to take pride in their writing and to understand the importance of presenting their work neatly & legibly.

From the Foundation stage, pupils will learn to write letters using baseline script which they will begin to join as appropriate from year 2 onwards.

Spelling

The National Curriculum gives a clear systematic and progressive approach to the teaching of phonics & spelling. We encourage children to use the "Look Say Cover Write Check" method of learning spellings. Spelling will be taught in all classes and words sent home for pupils to practise.

Phonics

20 min phonics sessions following Letters and Sounds & using the Jolly Phonics actions will take place daily in EYFS & KS1 classes.

Assessment

Teachers will use ongoing Assessment for Learning (formative) & summative Assessment of learning, to track pupil progress & inform future planning. Children will be encouraged to self assess & take ownership of their own learning.

Reviewed Autumn 2014

Review Date Summer 2017

Signed by Chair

Date