



Theale Church of England Primary School

English Policy

“The value of English in the curriculum? What can I say? Without English, nothing. And without good English, nothing very well.” Anne Fine, Author

“Studying English literature at my school was my first, and probably my biggest, step towards mental freedom and independence. It was like falling in love with life.” Ian McEwan, Novelist

The Importance of English

English is a vital way of communicating in school, in public life and internationally. Literature in English is rich and influential, reflecting the experience of people from many countries and times. In studying English pupils develop skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing. It enables them to express themselves creatively and imaginatively and to communicate with others effectively.

Pupils learn to become enthusiastic and critical readers of stories, poetry and drama as well as non-fiction and media texts. The study of English helps pupils understand how language works by looking at its patterns, structures and origins. Using this knowledge, pupils can choose and adapt what they say and write in different situations.

The National Curriculum for English

At Theale CE Primary school the teaching of English is regarded as the most important part of the school curriculum. It is through language that children communicate ideas and express emotions. It is intrinsic to a child’s personal, social and intellectual development, and enables him/her to participate effectively in public, cultural and working life.

Our policy will reflect an integrated programme of speaking and listening, reading and writing with opportunities that inter-relate all the requirements of the National Curriculum

AIMS

The overarching aim for English is to promote high standards of 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.

- To develop pupils’ abilities to communicate confidently, effectively and accurately in speech and writing, in ways appropriate for various occasions and purposes.
- To use discussion in order to learn; children should be able to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas.
- To enable pupils to become fluent, accurate, expressive and knowledgeable readers, developing an appreciation of the wealth and diversity of literature and an understanding of what they read.
- To enable every child to become a confident and discerning author.
- To offer pupils a range of writing and reading genres, throughout the school.

- Enable pupils to develop a consistent, fluent cursive legible style of handwriting suitable for a range of purposes.
- Learning how to find information from a variety of sources and to record information and findings in various ways.
- Develop an appreciation and understanding of the English Language.
- To acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language.
- To enable every child to learn to spell confidently and accurately. They will be able to draw on a range of strategies in order to communicate effectively and independently in writing.

Reading

The programmes of study for reading at Key Stages 1 and 2 consist of two dimensions:

- word reading
- comprehension

It is essential that teaching focuses on developing pupils' competence in both dimensions; different approaches to teaching are needed for each.

At Theale C of E Primary School reading is the most important skill we teach children. Our reading scheme is designed to be used for individualised reading. In the early years all the children are heard read every day by an adult. In key stage two the children are heard read by their teacher at least weekly, with anyone a year or more below their chronological age reading with an adult every day. Some children will read twice a week and some three times, depending on need. We guide our "free readers" to ensure they read a wide variety of authors and styles.

In addition to individual reading we have a wide variety of guided reading texts.

Children are given time to read for pleasure in school several times a week, they have access to a selection of books in their classrooms. The children use the school library and visit The Gateway Library for age appropriate activities and research.

We also read a carefully chosen selection of wide ranging, age appropriate literature to our children several times a week.

We enjoy visits from the local library and take part in competitions and challenges they set up. We also benefit from visits from authors to school.

Children's progress in reading is closely monitored and regularly assessed using the Salford and Hodder reading tests and their comprehension is assessed using PM bench marking.

Writing

The programmes of study for writing at Key Stages 1 and 2 also consist of two dimensions:

- transcription (spelling and handwriting)
- composition (articulating ideas and structuring them in speech and writing)

It is essential that teaching develops pupils' competence in these two dimensions. In addition, pupils will be taught how to plan, revise and evaluate their writing.

At Theale C of E Primary School we will teach our children to become confident and discerning writers. The children will be able to use appropriate formats and styles to communicate effectively for a range of purposes and audiences; this will include poetry, narrative and non-narrative writing.

Children will have the opportunity to write every day for real as well as imaginary audiences. The school environment will be language rich and include work that they have helped to create and is valued. Time will be given for children to talk about their writing and refine their writing by planning, revising, editing and proof-reading.

Teachers and other adults will regularly demonstrate high quality writing, explaining the process to help the children. Grammar and punctuation will be taught at the level appropriate for the child's age and ability.

By the time the children leave Theale C of E Primary School they will have achieved a fluent, legible, cursive handwriting style, and the ability to present finished work appropriately, clearly and attractively.

Children will be able to communicate in both narrative and non-narrative forms and write for a purpose. They will use effective vocabulary, selecting words with precision to create a desired effect, to write in a lively and thoughtful way, sustaining and developing ideas in interesting ways to engage and sustain reader's interest.

Children entering school in FS2 will have already had a wide range of experiences in literacy and we value and build upon these individual experiences using role play, writing areas, the outdoor area and book corners to develop these skills. The Early learning goals for Communication, Language and Literacy underpins all work in this area.

At each Key Stage a programme of study sets out what pupils should be taught to ensure coverage of a range of genres.

Spelling

At Theale C of E Primary School we will teach our children to be fluent, confident spellers. From an early age pupils will be exposed to daily Read Write Inc phonic activities taught through reading initially, and crossing in to writing as appropriate. They will be able to blend and segment phonemes in simple CVC and CCVC words. Children will be taught grapheme phoneme correspondences and rules for applying these. As children move through the programme/school they will be able to spell more complex polysyllabic words drawing on previously taught rules and strategies. By the time the children leave Theale Primary School they will make more adventurous word choices which they will spell with confidence, including contextual and lexical words.

Speaking and Listening/Spoken Language

Spoken language is the main form of human communication as such must be developed to the highest level of competency. To achieve this, children will be taught to learn to use the vocabulary and grammar of standard English. To formulate, clarify and express their ideas and be able to adapt their speech to a widening range of circumstances and demands. The children will learn to listen, understand and respond appropriately to others and to participate in group activities through discussion, debate and drama. The children will be able to be critical and discriminating in what they listen to and say, and to express themselves in an articulate, and confident manner.

Drama

Children at Theale are taught drama. They have the opportunity to use their imagination, develop their empathetic skills and thus developing their understanding of cause and effect. They will learn to work as part of a team and thus develop responsibility to others, improve their acting and performance skills.

Drama will be used to enhance other curriculum areas such as history, PSHE and RE. It will also be used to develop social and racial awareness and will help children to deal with social ills such as bullying.

Structure of Provision

All pupils are taught English between 7 and 8 hours a week. The children have 1hr each day of literacy in the Early Years and Key Stage 2, in addition the children have daily reading time and “story” time, and in the early Years, phonics and RWI. Handwriting time is also implemented across the whole school, daily in FS2, three times a week in years 1 and 2 and as required but at least once a week in KS2.

Cross-curricular links

Cross-curricular links are embedded in the planning, teaching and learning of Literacy. Unit plans are adapted and linked to topics where appropriate.

Information and Communication Technology

The use of ICT and the teaching of ICT should enhance, develop and support pupils’ learning of Literacy.

Homework

Appropriate homework will be set by the class teacher to enhance and develop children’s learning in Literacy following guidelines from the school’s homework policy. A reading record will be sent home with each child. This is for parents and teachers to record the reading books children read and to write a brief assessment of their reading.

Spelling homework will be given to children from FS2.

Equal Opportunities and Special Needs

Every pupil will be given equal opportunity to follow the National Curriculum or Foundation Stage Curriculum irrespective of their ethnic or linguistic background, gender, disability or religious beliefs. Children with Special Educational Needs will have full access to the Literacy curriculum which will be modified to best meet their needs. Those identified as Able, Gifted and Talented in Literacy will be given opportunities to develop their skills.

Assessment, Record Keeping and Marking

Assessment, record keeping and marking will be carried out according to the school’s policies. In alignment with National Curriculum requirements, teacher assessment will be the basis by which the performance of pupils’ achievement in Literacy is assessed. Pupils in the Foundation Stage will be assessed using the e-Profile which is informed through teacher assessment.

Pupils in Key Stage 1 and 2 will be assessed through teacher assessments which are informed by termly progress checks using APP criteria and optional SATs tests for reading and writing in the summer term. Cognitive Ability tests and standardised Nfer tests will be used in the spring term. Children in Year 2 and Year 6 will be formally assessed using the SATs.

Monitoring

The monitoring of Literacy will take the form of classroom observations, monitoring of planning, work scrutiny, interviews with children, learning walks and monitoring of displays. The subject leader, working with the head teacher is responsible for the monitoring of Literacy. The head teacher will report to governors through a termly report.