



Federation of Beckwithshaw, Kettlesing Felliscliffe and Ripley Endowed CE Primary Schools

Growing Together, Guided by Love

Curriculum Overview Statement: English - Writing

Intent

Our English curriculum is designed to foster a dynamic and interconnected relationship between reading, writing, and Oracy, celebrating the reciprocal nature of these vital components of language. We believe that proficient communication encompasses not only the ability to articulate thoughts clearly through writing and speech but also the capacity to engage deeply and empathetically with texts.

We strive to cultivate an environment of effective participation and active listening where students explore diverse voices and perspectives, nurturing compassion within themselves and towards others. Through collaborative discussions, rich dialogue and storytelling, pupils learn to appreciate the power of language as a tool for connection and understanding, as well as for change.

We encourage students to express their ideas boldly and share their narratives with confidence whether that be through reading work, Oracy or writing. By embracing challenges in English, pupils develop resilience and a passion for lifelong learning.

Through the integration of the core values, community, compassion and courage, our English curriculum not only equips students with essential knowledge and skills but also prepares them to be articulate, empathetic and active participants within their communities, capable of making positive contributions in an ever-changing world.

Speaking, listening and communication: learn to - learn through - learn about.

Implementation

At our school, we follow a text-based approach to the teaching of writing, underpinned by carefully planned outcomes provided each half term. This approach ensures coherence, progression, and clarity in writing instruction across all year groups. Each writing unit is built around a high-quality text, through which children explore a range of genres, purposes, and audiences. These contexts provide meaningful opportunities for children to apply their developing skills and understanding of the writing process.

A strong focus is placed on Spelling, Punctuation, and Grammar (SPaG) as well as pupils' handwriting and presentation, which is taught and practised daily. SPaG objectives are interwoven within writing lessons and are taught explicitly and contextually to enable children to apply these skills fluently and with purpose in their independent writing.

We place a strong emphasis on developing children's vocabulary. Children are actively taught and encouraged to use both Tier 2 (mature, academic) and Tier 3 (subject-specific) vocabulary. This is supported through structured opportunities for oracy, including class discussions, debates, role play, and presentations. These spoken language activities help children internalise ambitious vocabulary and apply it confidently in their writing.

At the beginning of each writing cycle, a WAGOLL (what a good one looks like) is used as an exemplary example of organisation, composition, vocabulary and grammar in the given text type. Teachers write the WAGOLLs to reflect the age-related expectations for each specific year group.



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The pupils deconstruct this WAGOLL for its features and discuss, at length, the purpose of each skill in relation to the text type and the intended audience.

Assessment for learning is embedded throughout the writing process, with frequent opportunities for peer and self-evaluation, editing, and redrafting. Teachers provide timely, constructive feedback aligned with the intended learning outcomes to ensure children make strong progress.

Ultimately, our goal is to develop articulate, thoughtful writers who can communicate clearly and creatively, and who understand the power of writing as a tool for both self-expression and influence.

Impact

In writing, pupils master the mechanics including grammar, punctuation, and spelling. They engage in various writing styles, from narrative to persuasive, allowing for self-expression and creativity while meeting rigorous academic standards. Our emphasis on Oracy transforms pupil engagement and communication skills. Structured speaking and listening activities foster collaborative discussions, enabling students to articulate their ideas with clarity and confidence which impacts on both their reading and writing outcomes.

Moreover, the curriculum is infused with our core values of community, compassion, and courage. Pupils are encouraged to support each other's growth, resulting in classroom environments where empathy and collaboration thrive. This focus on social and emotional development enriches learning experiences, creating a sense of belonging and shared responsibility.

In summary, the impact of our English curriculum is evidenced by pupils' remarkable progress in literacy skills, bolstered by a strong foundation in Oracy. We are proud to witness our pupils becoming articulate, compassionate, and courageous communicators, prepared to navigate the complexities of the world around them.