## Aims for English

The overarching aim for English in the National Curriculum is to promote high standards of literacy by equipping pupils with a strong command of the written and spoken word, and to develop their love of literature through widespread reading for enjoyment. The National Curriculum for English aims to ensure that all pupils:

* read easily, fluently and with good understanding
* 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
* use discussion in order to learn; they should be able to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas
* are competent in the arts of speaking and listening, making formal presentations, demonstrating to others and participating in debate.

Pupils should be taught to:

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| ***Word reading***   * apply phonic knowledge and skills as the route to decode words * respond speedily with the correct sound to graphemes (letters or groups of letters) for all 40+ phonemes, including, where applicable, alternative sounds for graphemes * read accurately by blending sounds in unfamiliar words containing GPCs that have been taught * read common exception words, noting unusual correspondences between spelling and sound and where these occur in the word * read words containing taught GPCs and –s, –es, –ing, –ed, –er and –est endings * read other words of more than one syllable that contain taught GPCs * read words with contractions, e.g. I’m, I’ll, we’ll, and under-stand that the apostrophe represents the omitted letter(s) * read aloud accurately books that are consistent with their developing phonic knowledge and that do not require them to use other strategies to work out words * re-read these books to build up their fluency and confidence in word reading. |
| ***Comprehension***   * develop pleasure in reading, motivation to read, and understanding by: * listening to and discussing a wide range of poems, stories and non-fiction at a level beyond that at which they can read independently * being encouraged to link what they read or hear read to their own experiences * becoming very familiar with key stories, fairy stories and traditional tales, retelling them and considering their particular characteristics * recognising and joining in with predictable phrases * learning to appreciate rhymes and poems, and to recite some by heart * understand both the books they can already read accurately and fluently and those they listen to by: * drawing on what they already know or on background information and vocabulary provided by the teacher * checking that the text makes sense to them as they read and correcting inaccurate reading * discussing the significance of the title and events * making inferences on the basis of what is being said and done * predicting what might happen on the basis of what has been read so far * participate in discussion about what is read to them, taking turns and listening to what others say * explain clearly their understanding of what is read to them. |
| ***Spellings***  spell:   * words containing each of the 40+ phonemes already taught * common exception words * the days of the week * name the letters of the alphabet: * naming the letters of the alphabet in order * using letter names to distinguish between alternative spellings of the same sound * add prefixes and suffixes: * using the spelling rule for adding –s or –es as the plural marker for nouns and the third person singular marker for verbs * using the prefix un– * using –ing, –ed, –er and –est where no change is needed in the spelling of root words (e.g. helping, helped, helper, eating, quicker, quickest) * apply simple spelling rules and guidelines, as listed in Appendix 1 * write from memory simple sentences dictated by the teacher that include words taught so far. |
| ***Handwriting***   * sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly * begin to form lower-case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place * form capital letters * form digits 0-9 * understand which letters belong to which handwriting ‘families’ (i.e. letters that are formed in similar ways) and to practise these. |
| ***Composition***   * write sentences by: * saying out loud what they are going to write about * composing a sentence orally before writing it * sequencing sentences to form short narratives * re-reading what they have written to check that it makes sense * discuss what they have written with the teacher or other pupils * read aloud their writing clearly enough to be heard by their peers and the teacher. |
| ***Grammar and punctuation***   * develop their understanding of the concepts set out in Appendix 2 by: * leaving spaces between words * joining words and joining sentences using and * beginning to punctuate sentences using a capital letter and a full stop, question mark or exclamation mark * using a capital letter for names of people, places, the days of the week, and the personal pronoun ‘I’ * learning the grammar of word structure in Appendix 2 * use the grammatical terminology in Appendix 2 in discussing their writing. |