



Our Aims and Values

Speaking and Listening

'The national curriculum for English reflects the importance of spoken language in pupils' development across the whole curriculum – cognitively, socially and linguistically. Spoken language underpins the development of reading and writing. The quality and variety of language that pupils hear and speak are vital for developing their vocabulary and grammar and their understanding for reading and writing.'

English Programmes of Study: Key Stages 1 and 2 National curriculum in England, DfE (2014)

- We aim to ensure that each child is provided with opportunities to develop Speaking and Listening skills in a variety of different situations.
- We want to foster in our children the confidence, desire and ability to express their ideas, views and opinions in an articulate manner demonstrating a wide vocabulary.
- We want our children to listen with understanding and respond appropriately.

Reading

'All pupils must be encouraged to read widely across both fiction and non-fiction to develop their knowledge of themselves and the world they live in, to establish an appreciation and love of reading, and to gain knowledge across the curriculum.'

'Reading also feeds pupils' imagination and opens up a treasure house of wonder and joy for curious young minds.'

English Programmes of Study: Key Stages 1 and 2 National curriculum in England, DfE (2014)

- We strive for all of our children to learn how to read with fluency and accuracy, and respond to different texts with understanding and confidence.
- We aim to develop comprehension skills through pupils' experience of high-quality discussion with the teacher, as well as from reading and discussing a range of high quality children's literature - stories, poems and non-fiction.
- We actively encourage all of our children to become life-long readers; developing a genuine love of reading and reading for pleasure, reading widely and regularly both in school and at home.
- We want to develop their knowledge of different authors, poets and illustrators and be able to critically review and reflect on what they have read.
- Through a wide range of reading opportunities we aim for the children to develop culturally, socially, emotionally, intellectually, socially and spiritually.
- We want to develop an interest in the English language, building our children's ever-growing vocabulary, through an interest in words and their meanings.
- We try to ensure that our children experience and study a range of high quality texts, media types and genres, across a range of contexts, to develop their general knowledge and understanding.

Writing

'All pupils write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences.'

'Effective composition involves forming, articulating and communicating ideas, and then organising them coherently for a reader. This requires clarity, awareness of the audience, purpose and context, and an

increasingly wide knowledge of vocabulary and grammar.'

English Programmes of Study: Key Stages 1 and 2 National curriculum in England, DfE (2014)

- We encourage our children to develop their voice as a writer, to learn to write coherently in a variety of styles and be able to apply characteristic features of texts to their own writing confidently and independently.
- We aim to develop their technical vocabulary with understanding of grammatical terminology and apply it in their own writing.
- We want our children to take pride in their work, and encourage and develop the accurate use of handwriting, spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- We want our children to be able to reflect on their writing critically by equipping them with the skills to plan, draft and edit their own writing.

Handwriting

It is important to ensure that cursive handwriting becomes an automatic way of writing. It then becomes one less thing for children to think about.

We start teaching cursive handwriting in reception class where the focus is on pre-cursive patterns, warm-up exercises, sitting position and tripod pencil grip, leading to correct letter formation of all lower case letters. During KS1 children are introduced to new letterforms (capital letters, numbers, printed letters and punctuation). Children will also be taught to produce neater handwriting with consistent spacing and letter sizes as well as learning 'speedy handwriting'. Throughout KS2 children will be taught to improve legibility, consistency and the quality of their handwriting. They will be provided with plenty of opportunities to develop the stamina and skills to write at length, they will be able to work towards producing consistently neat and well-presented handwriting in all curriculum subjects. By the end of KS2 children should be producing cursive writing automatically, enabling them to focus on the content of their work rather than the process of writing

We use [Letter Join](#) as our handwriting scheme. Letter-join is an online resource for teaching cursive handwriting at school and at home. It uses interactive animations to demonstrate joined-up letter formation and hundreds of worksheets for real handwriting practice.