

# Subject: English

English has a pre-eminent place in education and in society. A high-quality education in English will teach pupils to speak and write fluently so that they can communicate their ideas and emotions to others and through their reading and listening, others can communicate with them. Through reading in particular, pupils have a chance to develop culturally, emotionally, intellectually, socially and spiritually. Literature, especially, plays a key role in such development. Reading also enables pupils both to acquire knowledge and to build on what they already know. All the skills of language are essential to participating fully as a member of society; pupils, therefore, who do not learn to speak, read and write fluently and confidently are effectively disenfranchised.

## Aims

The overarching aim for English in the national curriculum is to promote high standards of language and 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. 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.

## Reading and writing

Reading at key stage 3 should be wide, varied and challenging. Pupils should be expected to read whole books, to read in depth and to read for pleasure and information.

Pupils should continue to develop their knowledge of and skills in writing, refining their drafting skills and developing resilience to write at length. They should be taught to write formal and academic essays as well as writing imaginatively. They should be taught to write for a variety of purposes and audiences across a range of contexts. This requires an increasingly wide knowledge of vocabulary and grammar.

Year 7 Content:

<b>Creative Writing:</b> Expedition, Dragons, Wild Week	<b>Play:</b> <i>White Poppies</i> <i>Black Harvest</i> , <i>A Christmas Carol</i>	<b>Poetry:</b> A selection including modern and literary heritage poets.	<b>Shakespeare:</b> <i>'The Tempest'</i>	<b>Non – fiction and non-literary texts:</b> Reading and creating a range of texts.	<b>Novel:</b> Variety of novels available.
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Year 8 Content:

<b>Non-fiction and non-literary texts:</b> Titanic	<b>Poetry:</b> World War One / World War Two poetry	<b>Creative writing and non-fiction texts:</b> The Apprentice, Fairy tales, Creative writing	<b>Gothic Genre:</b> <i>The Woman in Black</i> , <i>Frankenstein</i> , <i>Dracula</i>	<b>Language features and presentational devices:</b> Reading and creating a range of texts.	<b>Novel:</b> Variety of novels available.
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Year 9 Content:

<b>Novel:</b> <i>Of Mice and Men</i> , <i>To Kill A Mockingbird</i>	<b>Creative writing:</b> Taking inspiration from literary shorts.	<b>Shakespeare:</b> <i>'Romeo and Juliet'</i>	<b>Literary Non-fiction and non-fiction writing:</b> Reading and creating a range of texts.	<b>Poetry:</b> A selection of cultural poetry. Exploring the creation of character and voice.	<b>Detective/Crime Genre:</b> Taking inspiration from a range of literary heritage and contemporary authors.
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Assessment:

All students are assessed every ½ term. This follows a mock assessment which features targets and feedback.

**Enrichment:**

Year 7 -9 have weekly library lessons to allow them to choose and read books independently for challenge, interest and enjoyment. Reading is encouraged through bookmark tasks and the 'Reader of the Term' Hall of Fame. Year 9 lessons are skills based to prepare for the GCSE curriculum.

We run a weekly reading club 'Books and Biscuits' and a weekly creative writing club, both at lunchtimes.

We participate in the local Rotary Club 'Youth Speaks' competition and successfully enter teams across the age categories.

We run trips to local and national theatres to see recommended productions.

Termly competitions including Halloween creative writing competitions and 'Word of the Week' challenges result in prizes.

