



Curriculum Statement for English

At Highbury Primary School, we strive to deliver an exciting and engaging English curriculum which provides all children with the key literacy skills they will need, whilst enabling creativity and progression across the year groups. We believe that a quality English curriculum should develop children's love of reading, writing and discussion and expose them to a variety of high-quality texts and stimuli, as well as frequent, purposeful opportunities to practise and review key skills. Our curriculum aims, are underpinned by those in the National Curriculum for English, recognising that through the study of literature, children are able to explore the beauty and power of language and gain an understanding of the 'human experience', equipping them with essential life skills. Through our English practise, we strive to enable all children to.

- 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
- write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting language and style for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences
- use discussion in order to learn, showing an ability to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas

These aims are embedded across our English lessons and in the wider curriculum, where expectations for writing are high and children continue to develop speaking and listening skills while also being presented with a range of inspiring reading materials. At Highbury Primary School, we believe that literacy skills are essential to a child's development. A high-quality English curriculum gives children the tools they need to access education across the curriculum and to become successful beyond the classroom and into the wider world.

Writing

We intend to create confident writers who develop stamina and passion for writing throughout school. We aim for all of our children to be independent writers, building on a range of skills as they work through each journey of writing. Throughout this journey, we ensure the children of Highbury are immersed in a range of high-quality texts and genres and have a clear understanding of the purpose for writing and their intended audience. We aim to equip our learners with writing skills and a wide range of vocabulary to select with careful attention to the desired effect on the readers' thoughts and feelings. Our learners are challenged and encouraged to take risks and view mistakes as another part of the learning process. Our learners will always set high expectations for themselves where they take pride in all aspects of learning and in everything they produce.

Reading

At Highbury Primary School, we continually strive to build a rich reading culture and curricula that will have a positive impact on children's life chances and life-long wellbeing. We recognise the importance of ensuring that all of our children are able to frequently access a wide range of literature, allowing them to be immersed in rich vocabulary that will help them to develop a wider knowledge of the world and positively impact their life chances. We strive to foster a love of reading and develop the skills necessary for our pupils to become confident, fluent readers and critical thinkers, aligning with the National Curriculum expectations. We aspire to cultivate independent readers who can engage with a diverse range of texts and develop a lifelong enthusiasm for literature. Our reading curriculum is designed to:

- **Promote a Reading Culture:** We create an environment that celebrates reading across the school, where pupils feel excited about books and can explore a variety of genres, authors, and cultures as outlined in the National Curriculum.
- **Develop Comprehension Skills:** Our curriculum focuses on developing pupils' understanding and analysis of texts, enabling them to discuss, infer, and evaluate with confidence, in accordance with the National Curriculum's comprehension requirements.
- **Support Vocabulary Enrichment:** We aim to expand pupils' vocabulary through direct teaching, exposure to rich texts, and the explicit teaching of strategies to decipher unfamiliar words, promoting the vocabulary aims set out in the National Curriculum.
- **Cater for Diverse Needs:** We recognise and embrace the diverse backgrounds and abilities of our pupils, ensuring our reading programme is inclusive and aligned with the objectives of the National Curriculum, allowing every child to access and enjoy reading.

We aim for all children to leave our school with a love of reading and the ability to fluently read age-appropriate texts.

Early Reading

We follow a systematic and synthetic phonics programme, Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised, in Nursery, Reception and Key Stage 1. This programme is a DfE validated phonics programme, which ensures children build on their growing knowledge of the alphabetic code, working through the phases of learning during phonics lessons, made up of 'revisit, learning, practise and apply'. We will also use this programme for those pupils in Key Stage 2 who need further phonic support. Regular assessment of children will identify those who have gaps in their phonetical knowledge and timely interventions will be put in place to support them. Throughout the week, children will read a range of phonetically decodable books, that fully match the programme of study set out by Little Wandle. During these reading sessions, children will only read books with sounds they have been taught so far. There is considerable research to show that children who enjoy reading and choose to read benefit not only academically, but also socially and emotionally. At Highbury Primary School, we also teach Little Wandle alongside regular shared reading of stories and books, to help instil an early love of reading.