



English – Curriculum Statement

At Chesterton CE Primary School, English is taught through our skills based curriculum, incorporating the requirements of the New Curriculum through cross curricular learning experiences. This approach enhances and enriches the children's learning of English skills, making them relevant and meaningful.

Discrete English teaching is also a daily occurrence; ensuring that the necessary SPaG and phonics requirements are met.

Reading

In EYFS, each child takes part in at least one individual reading session with a teacher or teaching assistant once a fortnight. They also take part in whole group shared reading activities.

In Lower and Upper School, all children take part in a Guided Reading session once a week. Children are grouped for this according to their ability and sessions are planned to build upon their next steps in learning. Teaching also regularly incorporates whole class shared and guided reading during English lessons.

Phonics

Children throughout school are regularly assessed for their phonic and spelling skills. These assessments inform the selection of vertical groupings and phonics teaching is appropriately planned and delivered in 20 minute sessions, four days a week. Phonics teaching is synthetic and based on the Phonics Play (Letters and Sounds) and Support for Spelling programmes.

Key spellings are taught and learnt through phonics sessions and home learning. Each child from Year 1 upwards, takes part in a dictation exercise each week and key spellings are incorporated into this activity.

Writing

The teaching of writing focuses on a variety of different genres; linked to topic work, which are first explored and then modelled through the use of shared and guided writing. The children then move onto developing their own writing in the chosen genre. SPaG skills are also taught discretely once a week.

Ongoing assessment takes place through Big Write, which occurs every 3 to 4 weeks, allowing teachers to track the progress of writing skills. Teachers further assess the children's writing during each Assessment Point, in order to track the progress that is being made and set new targets for the children to work on.

Spoken Language

Speaking and listening are essential skills that are developed regularly alongside other objectives. Children are taught to develop and apply speaking and listening skills to suit a variety of audiences and for different purposes. They are given opportunities to tell and listen to stories and explore, develop and justify ideas and opinions in both formal and informal contexts. They are also encouraged to express themselves creatively in improvisation, role play, poetry recitations and other drama activities.