

St Ives Infant & Nursery School - English Statement

Intent

At St Ives Infant and Nursery School we believe that a quality English curriculum should support children on their learning adventure, developing their curiosity and excitement about the world and their ability to engage with people around them. We will develop children's love of reading, writing and discussion, teaching the skills they need to communicate effectively and confidently with others, using the spoken and written word. Our curriculum closely follows the aims of the National Curriculum for English 2014 to enable all children to:

- develop the ability to communicate effectively in speech and writing;
- acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of conventions for writing;
- listen with understanding;
- become fluent and responsive readers;
- lay the foundations for a lifelong love of reading and writing.

We aim to embed these skills across our English and literacy lessons and through the wider curriculum. A clear pathway of progression as they advance through the curriculum supported by a rigorous assessment will ensure that we are able to provide targeted support so that all children experience success in English. We believe that a secure basis in literacy skills will give our children the tools they need to participate fully as a confident member of society.

Implementation

Early literacy skills are developed from the moment the children join us either in Nursery or Reception. There is a clear progression framework designed for both writing and phonics enabling children to build on the learning they have already experienced.

Early reading skills are developed through the daily teaching of phonics using a bespoke school systematic synthetic phonics programme which is based on the Letters and Sounds sequence. Children are taught whole class phonics and have the opportunity to apply their learning at their level in smaller groups daily, enabling rapid identification of areas for development. We use phonically decodable books for home readers to support our systematic teaching of phonics.

Daily whole class guided reading lessons are delivered in KS1 where a focus is on vocabulary, general knowledge and comprehension, allowing children the opportunity to further enhance their reading skills and develop a love of reading for pleasure. Our focus is to develop competent readers who can fluently read at an appropriate level for their age, with high expectations for understanding and comprehension. This is supplemented by timetabled story time in each class as well as time to spend in our library where high quality books have been purchased allowing children to take their love of reading home to share with adults there.

Teaching focuses on fiction, non-fiction or poetry, in line with the 2014 National Curriculum while comprehension, grammar and writing are embedded in lessons. Teachers use quality text, images and film clips to inspire writing, ensuring, where possible, a link to other areas of the curriculum to provide a concrete context for learning. Children are given the knowledge and the strategies to become confident and accurate spellers. Teachers have high expectations of children to use their

phonic skills to sound talk words. Once the children are secure in phase 5 Letters and Sounds the expectation will be for children to begin to use the correct spellings for words. Children will be expected to correctly spell all common exception words that have been taught.

Handwriting is taught from EYFS through activities that develop children's fine and gross motor skills. From Reception onwards the children are taught to form letters in pre-cursive style with no lead-ins, writing on appropriately sized lines. Handwriting is taught daily as a separate session from the English lesson. There is an expectation that taught letters will be formed correctly in all writing in every class.

Children in the Foundation Stage have their attainment on entry assessed and their progress is tracked and monitored through the use of Early Years Outcomes throughout Nursery and Reception. The Foundation Stage profile will indicate if children are reaching expected levels by the end of Reception and will be used to support transition into Key Stage 1.

In Key Stage 1 children will be assessed at the end of each term according to the writing and phonics progression frameworks through looking at work produced, observations, moderation and discussions. Year 2 children will be assessed at the end of the year according to the end of Key Stage assessment criteria. Year 1 children will take the phonics screening check in June and those children who do not pass will be given the opportunity to develop their phonic knowledge further through focused phonic teaching.

Assessment for Learning is embedded in English lessons and children from reception onwards are encouraged to reflect on their learning and are active in reviewing the successes in their work and identifying, with support from their teacher, areas for development.

Impact

Children will leave St Ives Infant and Nursery School at the end of Year 2 as enthusiastic and confident readers who choose to read for their own enjoyment. They will be able to communicate their ideas and opinions effectively both orally and using the written word. Children will take pride in their learning and will be able to communicate it through clear, neatly presented and well-structured writing.

Our aim is that each child will achieve the NA for ARE in reading and writing. In the phonics screening check we will achieve the NA for children at the end of year 1 and all children who do not pass in year 1 will have the opportunity to pass at the end of year 2.