

English

Intent

During their time at Our Lady of Victories, all children will be exposed to a high quality education in English. This will teach pupils to read fluently so that they can access the whole curriculum and a world of information and, at the same time, develop their cultural capital. Their English education will teach them to speak and write fluently so that they can communicate their ideas and emotions to others and be well prepared for their futures after primary school.

Implementation

Speaking and Listening

The quality and variety of spoken language that pupils hear and speak is vital in the development of their vocabulary and grammar and underpins the success of their reading and writing. The continual development of discussion and debate, the participation in and analysis of drama, and the conventions of conversation enable our pupils to gain a confidence and competence in spoken language, and the ability to listen and respond appropriately.

Reading

Children in Early Years and Key Stage 1 follow the Read Write Inc. Phonics scheme and are given reading texts to read at school and at home which are closely linked to their phonic knowledge. All children will be given 'banded' texts to read, as well have other texts chosen purely for pleasure, until they become 'Free Readers'.

Guided Reading sessions take place four times a week in Reception and Key Stage 1. These sessions follow a progression of skills, and help children to develop their decoding and comprehension skills. In Key Stage 2, classes have whole class reading lessons at least three times a week and this is supplemented with smaller reading groups to meet personalised objectives. Class readers are chosen with care to ensure that children are offered a range of genres, including texts with archaic language, traditional and non-traditional stories, poetry and information texts. We also seek out supporting texts which allow children to explore further around the themes introduced in the core text. The core books are used to facilitate and enrich both the reading and writing opportunities offered to children.

A reading culture is continuously promoted and celebrated throughout the year. Children love to talk about their reading and enjoy reading for pleasure. The school celebrates World Book Day with numerous activities during 'Book Week' each year. We have a well-cared-for and much-loved library which all children visit regularly.

Writing

'Reading Is Like Breathing In; Writing Is Like Breathing Out' - Pam Allyn

We aim to ensure that reading and writing are interconnected so that children can make purposeful links across their learning. It is for this reason that we place a significant focus on the study of literature from across the ages and across genres. Vocabulary rich books are chosen to both stimulate and challenge the children, leading to high-quality writing outcomes. Children are taught through carefully designed quality text-led learning journeys. The journey starts with an analysis of a text and its writing style and it leads to a piece of writing with a clear purpose and desired outcome. Tasks are differentiated and are designed to support and challenge all learners. Children apply their writing skills across other areas of the curriculum at every possible opportunity.

Grammar

In Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, the children will be taught grammar with at least one discrete focussed lesson per week. Grammar points will also be embedded into other lessons when reading texts and developing writing skills.

Spelling

Daily Phonics sessions are taught in Reception and Key Stage 1, following the Read Write Inc. programme. Spelling sessions are taught at least once a week in Key Stage 2 focussing on the Statutory Spelling Lists and spelling rules for each year group. Children who are not making the expected progress with their spelling are supported in small groups and individual focussed interventions using the Read Write Inc. scheme take place.

Handwriting

Cursive handwriting is used across the school using the 'Letterjoin' programme. Pre-cursive writing is taught in Early Years for the first term and children are then taught cursive handwriting as soon as they are ready to progress. Interventions will take place in Key Stage 2 to meet individual children's needs. All children are set high expectations for their handwriting and the presentation of their work.

Impact

The impact of our English curriculum will be:

- Children will read fluently from an early age and can therefore deepen their understanding of the National Curriculum and the world around them.
- Children will genuinely love to read and they will have been exposed to a wide variety of quality literature (fiction and poetry) and information texts.
- Children will have an excellent comprehension of the written word.

- Children will have a wide and rich vocabulary and will be able to express themselves clearly, confidently and eloquently through both the spoken and written word.
- Children will be able to write legibly and to be proud of their presentation.
- Children will use an enriched and ambitious vocabulary.
- Children will have an excellent understanding of English grammar and be able to apply it to their own writing.

We will have ensured that the children's attainment is at least in line with, or exceeds, their potential when we consider their individual starting points.

The children will have attained highly in National Tests e.g. Phonics Screening Check and Statutory Assessment Tests in Years 2 and 6.

The children will be academically prepared for life beyond primary school and throughout their educational journey. They will have had an enriching experience through literature and be fully equipped to communicate their thoughts and feelings and to impart information clearly for life.