



Curriculum Statement for English

Intent – What we want to achieve

At William Austin Infant School, our mission is to create a learning environment '**Where All Individuals Shine**'. We understand the importance of nurturing and developing all children into confident learners who are not afraid to take risks and can self-reflect on their learning.

We **intend** to deliver an English Curriculum that enables children to develop their speaking, reading and writing skills. This in turn allows children to access all areas of the school curriculum. Alongside this, we **intend** to develop children's ability to communicate in the wider world for a range of purposes which goes beyond our school. We **intend** to equip our children with the skills to share and express their thoughts, feelings and views through a curriculum where vocabulary and high quality literature is at the heart of the teaching and learning.

Through our English teaching, we **intend** to expose children to a wide range of texts and experiences that will encourage and enable children to develop an interest and love of reading and writing, which provides a window into the wider world. Children will master transferable life-skills and develop an increasing amount of confidence to implement these skills independently.

Implementation – How we will achieve this

At William Austin Infant School, we provide children with high-quality daily English lessons that are creative, engaging and inclusive. Key skills are taught and developed in carefully planned lessons. Each year group follow their own English curriculum overview in which prior knowledge and skills are embedded whilst continuing to further develop knowledge.

As soon as children attend our school their phonics and reading journey is implemented. This includes:

- A daily Phonics lesson in Year R and Year 1 which follows 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised', a systematic, synthetic phonics programme.
- Children read 'Little Wandle' books which are matched to their phonics progression. Children are well prepared for their Phonics Screening Check which happens in Year 1 and can transfer the skills learned in phonics to enjoy reading books of their choice. Assessments are at least half termly; data collated from these assessments allows 'Daily Keep Up' support to be implemented in a timely fashion ensuring that no child is left behind in their Phonics learning journey.
- Children in all year groups choose a book independently from the school library on a weekly basis that is linked to their own interests. This is the Year R and Year 1 sharing book which is for parents to read, talk about and enjoy with their child.
- In Year 2 children take part in weekly focused reading lessons, daily spelling lessons and children start 'Accelerated Reader', providing further daily opportunities to read.

Our ambitious English curriculum is **implemented** through lessons which follow the Pie Corbett 'Talk for Writing Approach'.

This includes:

- Exciting 'hooks' at the start of each English unit providing children with new experiences that spark interest in learning whilst introducing new vocabulary and opportunities to share opinions.
- The teaching of motivating 'model texts' which provide children with new vocabulary and structures that they are able to internalise and adopt as their own.
- Regular assessment and instant feedback is given allowing children to innovate structures to communicate their own ideas.
- Warm up activities and grammar focus lessons linked to the model text and the learnt writing genres.
- Providing children with cross-curricular writing opportunities based on these learnt structures in English so that they see writing forms are an important part of life.

Impact – The Outcomes

The **impact** of our English curriculum is seen through children's increased understanding of a wide range of texts and their ability to link their learning in English lessons to real-life experiences. Children are able to confidently express their thoughts, feelings and views and develop their vocabulary further as a result of their English lessons. The **impact** of our English curriculum can be seen through the children's increased confidence, skills and application of their learning; not only in English lessons, but across the whole school curriculum. The **impact** is seen through their love of reading.