

The Big picture (Overview)

At St. Finbar's Catholic Primary School we believe that literacy and communication are life skills. Through our English curriculum, we will help children develop the skills and knowledge that will enable them to communicate effectively and creatively through spoken and written language and equip them with the skills to become lifelong learners.

We want children to enjoy and appreciate literature and its rich variety. Through a range of high quality texts we endeavour to ensure that our children enjoy participating in lessons, developing a positive and enthusiastic attitude towards English lessons that will stay with them for life.

What is English like in our school?

- The books that we look at in lessons are really interesting and fun (Y4).
- I just love the flashback stories, they're really exciting (Y6).
- I like how my teacher makes the start of each new book exciting. A blue creature has moved into our class! (Y2).
- We have lots of new reading books in our library, it's made me want to read more. (Y5).
- I like reading different stories. (Y1)
- I like the sentence snake, it helps me write a good sentence. (Rec)

Teaching and Learning (Key learning and skills)

- Confident communicator with excellent speaking and listening and oracy skills.
- Has a range of vocabulary that they can use in conversations and their writing across subjects.
- Show an enjoyment for reading, reads often for both pleasure and information.
- Read fluently with a good understanding of what they have read.
- Articulate feelings and formulate responses to a range of texts using appropriate vocabulary.
- Write clearly, showing stamina in a range of genres for a range of audiences and purposes, adjusting their language and style accordingly.
- Be able to express opinions confidently.
- Use grammar and punctuation accurately.
- Understand spelling conventions.
- Produce effective, well presented written work.

What we want our curriculum to help our children know and do (Intent)

We aim to ensure that every child achieves success and that all are enabled to develop their skills across the English curriculum in accordance with their individual level of ability. When teaching our English curriculum we want our pupils to acquire the knowledge and understanding and skills to become lifelong learners with excellent communication skills. The curriculum is designed to ensure that pupils develop their reading, writing, phonics and oracy skills in both English lessons and across the wider curriculum.

Throughout our children's school experience, children develop their skills by exploring a range of genres. Reading and high quality texts are an integral part of our curriculum. Texts are selected so that the pupils experience a range of texts to broaden their vocabulary and understanding of grammar whilst developing a love of reading and writing. We strive for academic and personal excellence and want our children to have high aspirations. We want them to have no limits to what their ambitions are; and want them to work together to achieve this through our school values.

How we organise our curriculum (Implement)

Reception take part in Drawing Club, supporting the development of fine motor skills and developing conversational skills through sharing new vocabulary, ideas and developing confidence.

Year 1 – Year 6 take part in a daily English lesson based on the Literacy Counts scheme of work, 'Read to Write'. The teaching of writing is through carefully constructed units based around high quality texts. Each unit of work starts with a hook lesson to create interest, the unit then leads to an analysis of the text, before the pupils plan and write their own work.

Reading is an integral part of our school curriculum, pupils read regularly with school staff and a love of reading is promoted across the school. High quality texts are used to support the wider curriculum and pupils have access to class libraries and a well-stocked school library.

Additional sentence accuracy sessions take place before the start of an English lesson. The sessions encompass word, sentence, and punctuation from the statutory National Curriculum programme of study for writing. This daily practice also helps build fluency and stamina for writing.

How we know children are knowing and doing more (Impact)

We have confident and enthusiastic children who are assured in their ability to showcase their English knowledge to peers and adults using high level communication skills, vocabulary, speaking and listening and oracy skills. Children are confident, fluent readers and realise the importance of reading for pleasure along with reading for information and knowledge.

Assessment information is collected frequently and analysed as part of our monitoring cycle. This process provides an accurate and comprehensive understanding of the quality of education in English. Monitoring in English includes: book scrutinies, lesson observations, end of term NFER tests with question level analysis, learning walks, and pupil and/or staff voice. It is used to inform further curriculum developments and provision is adapted accordingly.