

# Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

## English Overview



*"The ability to communicate effectively is a key skill, and the better we are at it, the better our quality of life will be."*

At Sacred Heart, we strongly believe in instilling a high standard of speaking, listening, reading and writing skills for all of our pupils. In doing so, children will be at an advantage as they access all areas of the curriculum and they will develop into confident and literate members of society.

### Intent

The core intent at the centre of our English Curriculum is to deliver a high-quality and engaging framework, which enables pupils to speak, read and write fluently. English is a core subject and our curriculum ensures full coverage of the National Curriculum (2014). Our English programme of study focuses on five key areas:

- Reading
- Writing
- Spoken language
- Vocabulary development and
- Spelling, punctuation and grammar.

At Sacred Heart, we believe that quality children's literature is at the heart of all learning. As a result, the highly acclaimed [Power of Reading Scheme](#) from the CLPE is central to our teaching of English. The Power of Reading Scheme has supported thousands of schools in raising engagement and attainment in reading and writing for all children. Its framework utilises an immersive approach to engage children with high-quality texts and encourage them to explore different purposes for writing.

### Implementation

In order to implement the intent for our English curriculum, great focus is placed on ensuring that the following is embedded throughout the school:

- Encouraging a love of literature through our 'Reading Community'.
- Immersing pupils in a diverse literacy heritage and a variety of text types.
- Creating a safe environment in which all pupils feel valued and are encouraged to communicate with confidence, fluency and understanding.
- Exposing children to a range of rich vocabulary across many areas of the curriculum.
- Giving our pupils opportunities to explore writing for different purposes in order to develop knowledge and progress skills across a range of genres.
- Correcting spelling and grammar in a sensitive and constructive manner.
- Encouraging pupils to develop a clear and legible handwriting style.

Across all classes, teachers plan engaging lessons, which promote active learning and participation. All lessons are taught with a clear learning objective and success criteria are listed to demonstrate how learning will be achieved. All lessons are sequential and show the necessary progression of knowledge and skills.

Due to how invaluable speaking, listening, reading and writing skills are, our teaching of them is threaded throughout all areas of the curriculum and school life. By exploring these skills in a variety of different settings, they become deeply integrated as pupils can apply the same skills in different settings.

### **Impact**

We aim for all our pupils at Sacred Heart to perform highly at the end of their key stage for English:

#### **Year 1 Phonics Screening - 2022**

*67%\* achieved their phonics screening at the end of the summer term 2022.*

*Please note: There were 5 new children into class within 2 weeks of the test. Excluding these, our result would have been 87%.*

#### **Key Stage 1 Assessments – 2022**

*88% achieved EXS in Reading and 52% achieved GDS in this area.*

*76% achieved EXS in Writing and 28% achieved GDS in this area.*

*80% achieved EXS in Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling.*

#### **Key Stage 2 Assessments – 2022**

*76% achieved EXS in Reading and 36% achieved GDS in this area.*

*76% achieved EXS in Writing and 16% achieved GDS in this area.*

*83% achieved EXS in Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling.*

#### **Year 1 Phonics Screening**

*67%\* achieved their phonics screening at the end of the summer term 2022.*

*Please note: There were 5 new children into class within 2 weeks of the test. Excluding these, our result would have been 87%.*

#### **If you were to walk into English lessons at Sacred Heart, you would see:**

- A wide range of high-quality texts to engage pupils.
- Strategies to actively develop pupils' vocabulary through dictionaries, word banks, working walls and other resources.
- Sequential and coherent lessons that build on prior knowledge and inform future learning.

- Children involved in a variety of engaging activities that enhance a passion for English including: discussion, drama and writing for a range of different purposes.
- Keywords or technical vocabulary displayed and made accessible for children.
- Regular 'Assessment for Learning' check-ins where teachers systemically check pupils' understanding and address misconceptions.
- Dedicated sessions where children are given feedback on their work and opportunities to review, reflect and improve their work.
- Individualised Published Work books where the culmination of the writing process is recorded to celebrate and reward progress.
- High expectations of presentation.

### **What pupils say about English at Sacred Heart:**

#### **Year 1 / 2:**

"I enjoy writing stories."

"I like learning about traditional tales."

"I enjoy when we get to work in groups and do drama together."

"It's exciting when my teacher reads us stories."

"I use phonics to sound out new words."

"I love when we publish work and it goes on display."

"Getting to write different things is my favourite."

"I love reading to my teacher. I am good at reading."

"I like learning what new words mean and using them in my writing."

"My favourite is writing poetry using all the features."

#### **Year 3 / 4:**

"We can get really creative in our writing."

"I enjoy getting to write about the book we are reading – that is really fun."

"I love reading adventure stories the most."

"I write longer pieces of work now and I enjoy it!"

"My handwriting has got so much better."

"I have been more confident to use ambitious vocabulary and punctuation."

"I like to discuss texts with other children and share our ideas together."

"I enjoy reading different kinds of books to see which is my favourite."

#### **Year 5 / 6**

"I like doing SPaG because it helps improve me writing."

"My vocabulary has improved a lot. I love using new words in my work."

"Learning to use a dictionary to improve my writing has helped so much."

"I love reading my work in front of the whole class."

"I enjoy using our Free Writing books because I can write about anything I like."

"I love using artistic license and imagination in my writing."

"I really enjoy the longer pieces of writing – my stamina has improved a lot."

"The visual elements in lessons are really important for me."