

All Saints C E (C) Primary School, Alrewas

Policy Statement for English

General Principles and Philosophy

English is an area of the curriculum that has a dual role. The teaching and learning of English has specific needs that require it to be addressed as an important study in its own right. It is also the principal medium for teaching and learning in all areas of the curriculum. "Language is the means of learning throughout the school curriculum and throughout every key stage ... It is essential that opportunities are created to develop children's learning through language, about language and as users of language, in all curriculum areas." (National Curriculum)

English is the main vehicle through which we make sense of our world and communicate our thoughts, attitudes and experiences to others. Language transcends all subject boundaries and contributes directly to the central aim of education which is the personal development of the individual into an informed and sensitive participant in society. The school English policy will, therefore, have a high priority.

Language is central to teaching and learning in all areas of the curriculum and, as such, it is the responsibility of all teachers. In line with current thinking we are working towards providing each pupil with their entitlement of an hour per day focussing on aspects of literacy.

The fundamental aim of English as a school subject is to enable all pupils to develop to the full their abilities to use language and to understand the language of others in all the varied contexts demanded by living in the modern world.

English contributes to the curricular experience to which every pupil is entitled by helping to foster:

Linguistic Development: the ability to use and respond to language in a wide range of contexts and for the variety of purposes and audiences that modern living demands.

Aesthetic Development: the capacity for creative and imaginative participation in the production and reception of literature and other media.

Social and Moral Development: the ability and willingness to respond in sensitive and informed ways to issues within school and in the wider social context.

The National Curriculum

The English curriculum follows the guidelines set out in the National Curriculum Document and the National Literacy Strategy. The children will follow an integrated programme that covers the three Attainment Targets: Speaking and Listening, Reading and Writing.

The Programme of Study for each Key Stage will be taught to pupils in ways appropriate to their abilities. In order to develop and extend their proficiency in oral and written language.

Aims

The general aims of English teaching at All Saints C E (C) Primary School can be expressed in the following way:

- to enable pupils to develop to the full their abilities in speaking and listening, reading and writing, so that they are able to engage appropriately with language in a wide range of contexts for a variety of different purposes and audiences;
- to develop pupils' capacity to use language as a sensitive means of articulating and communicating experience;
- to help pupils to achieve their highest capabilities in appreciating and responding to literature and other media;
- to help pupils develop their powers of imagination,
- to enable pupils to make their implicit knowledge about language explicit so that they are empowered to use it with more control and deliberation.

Specific Aims

During their time at All Saints C E (C) Primary School our specific aims for the pupils development are that they will be able to:

Speaking and Listening

- express their own ideas clearly and concisely
- listen carefully to what others have to say
- select the appropriate language to use in a range of situations and for different purposes
- use the vocabulary and grammar of standard English., whilst appreciating the diverse range of dialects in modern society.

Reading

- take pleasure in reading as an activity
- access a wide range of texts, fiction and non-fiction, from a variety of cultures and times
- use the skills of decoding text independently (graphic, phonic, syntactic and contextual)
- understand texts at a literal level
- infer meaning implied in text

- read aloud with confidence and expression
- read silently with speed and fluency
- use a variety of strategies for searching out information from a range of non-fiction texts

Writing

Range

- write independently
- use writing as a way of collecting and recording ideas
- write successfully for a range of audiences
- write for a variety of purposes including stories, poems, lists, invitations, labels, diagrams, cards, reports and letters
- use a style of organisation suitable to a particular type of writing

Punctuation

- understand that punctuation is essential to help the reader understand what has been written
- organise their writing into units of meaning
- use capital letters and full stops, question marks or exclamation marks to demarcate sentences with accuracy and consistency
- use commas correctly
- use an apostrophe to mark possession
- use speech marks to indicate dialogue

Handwriting

- identify the difference between drawing and writing
- hold a pencil/pen correctly and comfortably
- explain that writing goes from left to right and top to bottom on a page (in English script)
- form the letters correctly and consistently
- orientate and position letters correctly on a line

- distinguish between, and use appropriately, upper and lower case letters
- join letters
- maintain flow and speed when joining writing

Spelling

- use marks, shapes and letters to represent writing
- use initial letters with other random letters to represent a word
- spell words phonetically
- spell more commonly occurring words correctly in their own work
- use their knowledge of word patterns, families and root words to help them spell
- spell common polysyllabic words correctly
- identify the letters and order of the alphabet
- use their knowledge of the alphabet to help find the relevant part of a word book or dictionary
- use their knowledge of dictionary conventions to check accuracy of spelling and to find meaning

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