

English Curriculum Statement

Intent

At Richardson Dees, we believe that a quality English curriculum should develop children's love of reading, writing and discussion. We aim to inspire an appreciation of our rich and varied literary heritage and a habit of reading widely and often. We recognise the importance of nurturing a culture where children take pride in their writing, can write clearly and accurately and adapt their language and style for a range of contexts. We want to inspire children to be confident in the art of speaking and listening and who can use discussion to communicate and further their learning.

We believe that children need to develop a secure knowledge base in Literacy, which follows a clear pathway of progression as they advance through the primary curriculum. We believe that a secure basis in literacy skills is crucial to a high-quality education and will give our children the tools they need to participate fully as a member of society.

Implementation

These aims are embedded across our literacy lessons and the wider curriculum. We have a rigorous and well organised English curriculum that provides many purposeful opportunities for reading, writing and discussion. English is often taught in a cross-curricular way, linking up with other areas of the curriculum. We teach our pupils to speak clearly, to convey their ideas fluently and confidently and to ask questions; the use of Talk for Writing activities across the school supports this. We know the value of excellent vocabulary and this is developed and practised across our curriculum constantly. We use Talk for Writing to encourage pupils to express their ideas, discuss their ideas and to develop more sophisticated vocabulary. We teach pupils to write to entertain, persuade and inform the reader. We use our Basic Skills lessons to develop and embed grammar, vocabulary, handwriting and spelling.

In addition to daily literacy lessons, children develop in early reading through the use of the RWI programme from reception – year 2 and continue to develop a range of reading skills, as well as a love of reading throughout KS2. We use a wide variety of quality texts and resources to motivate and inspire our children in daily half hour sessions. We also provide a wealth of enrichment opportunities. We visit our local library regularly; we visit authors each year, embrace World Book Day and enter writing competitions. This ensures that children benefit from access to positive role models from the local and wider locality. Our Golden Ticket initiative rewards regular readers and our Reading Plus programme ensures fluency throughout upper KS2. We are very proud of our school library. There is a teaching space and a homely, relaxed area for quiet reading plus a wide selection of fiction and non-fiction books for all ages. We have a rigorous approach to helping pupils catch up and close gaps within their reading using bespoke interventions, one-to-one reading and a reading buddy system.

Impact

As a result, we have a community of enthusiastic readers and writers who enjoy showcasing their developing literacy knowledge and skills. They are confident to take risks in their reading and writing, and love to discuss and share their ideas.