

English Curriculum Statement

Brookfield Primary School – Be the best you can be!



"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader."

-Margaret Fuller

Intent

At Brookfield Primary School we know that English skills are vital for the life opportunities of our children. Teachers develop pupils' spoken language, reading, writing and vocabulary range as integral aspects of the teaching of every subject. English is both a subject in its own right and the medium for teaching; for pupils, understanding the language provides access to the whole curriculum. Fluency in the English language is an essential foundation for success in all subjects.

The importance of reading for children cannot be underestimated. Reading for pleasure benefit a child's education, social and cognitive development, their wellbeing, and their mental health. Numerous pieces of research conducted and commissioned by the Book Trust have discovered the profound benefits of reading for a child's development. One study details the effects of reading on later literacy skills, facilitating social interaction between adults and children, and encouraging children to engage with the world around them. It also states how reading can be a 'stable source of information' throughout a child's life.

This stability allows them to access text in a constant fashion and can be especially beneficial for children growing up in challenging circumstances. With this in mind, we place reading at the heart of our curriculum and believe that all of our children can become fluent, confident and able readers who have a love of reading!

Learning to write is one of the most important things that a child will do at primary school. Almost all other areas of the curriculum are assessed through writing, so strong writing is one of the keys to academic success. Good writing also gives children a voice to share their ideas with the world which is what we strive for at Brookfield!

Aims

At Brookfield Primary School, we aim to:

- Implement the current legal requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and the National Curriculum

- Immerse the children in a curriculum rich with high-quality texts
- Foster positive attitudes, fascination and excitement of discovery through the teaching and learning of English
- Develop our children so that they have a 'can do' attitude and perceive themselves as readers and writers
- Broaden children's knowledge and understanding of how reading is used in the wider world
- Ensure our children use and understand the correct language and recognise its importance as a language for communication and thinking

Implementation

The Literary Curriculum

Our English curriculum is fundamentally based around The Literary Curriculum which places rich, high-quality texts at the heart of our curriculum. This is then supplemented by resources from Herts for Learning to ensure that our children cover a wide range of text types to meet the objectives set out in the National Curriculum.

Key features of our English curriculum:

- High quality texts at the heart of our curriculum, based around The Literary Curriculum
- All planning written using a wide range of literature that will engage children to be critical readers whilst becoming confident and informed writers
- All National Curriculum requirements are embedded, making the grammar purposeful and there is always a mixture of shorter and extended writing outcomes where the audience and purpose is clear and exciting for children!
- Phonics is taught through Little Wandle Letters and Sound Revised (see Phonics and Early Reading Curriculum Statement)
- Spelling is taught using discrete taught sessions and Spell Shed
- Handwriting is taught using Letter Join

Organisation of teaching and learning

Each class at Brookfield is taught English daily based on a high-quality text. In addition to daily English lessons, there are also daily sessions for phonics, spellings, handwriting and reading practice.

Early Years Foundation Stage

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), teaching is planned through adult supported teaching and learning following the EYFS framework. Continuous provision inside and outside provides daily opportunities to immerse the children in high-quality texts in addition to their daily phonics and reading practice. A love of reading is fostered through the delightful reading area, an induction to and regular visits to Shirebrook Library.

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2

In Key Stage 1 (KS1) and Key Stage 2 (KS2), teaching follows the National Curriculum which is supported by The Literary Curriculum materials which ensures clear progression across the year groups. This involves daily English lessons of 1 hour in addition to a daily phonics or spelling lesson and a daily reading practice session.

Planning

At Brookfield Primary School, we use materials from The Literary Curriculum to support our planning. Our book-based planning sequences are detailed lesson plans that last for between two to three weeks. They have been written using a wide range of literature precisely chosen so that it engages children to be critical readers whilst also becoming confident and informed writers. All National Curriculum requirements are embedded, making the grammar purposeful and there is always a mixture of shorter and extended writing outcomes where the audience and purpose is clear and exciting for children! Meeting the needs of all of our children is crucial and all planning ensures that all children are sufficiently supported, challenged and engaged with their learning.

Resources

- Each class has a range of resources to support learning. These are easily accessible for the children to promote independence. Each class has copies of their focus text.
- Environments have been designed to support and enhance learning
- A well-resourced library offering a wealth of phonetically decodable books which are matched to children's phonetical awareness and development
- Engaging texts for readers of all abilities using the Accelerated Reader programme
- Ongoing support from the English Hub
- Weekly spellings using Spell Shed for Y1-Y6
- Letter Join

Assessment

At Brookfield, our primary assessments in English are continuous. From the beginning of every lesson, teachers and teaching and learning assistants will be assessing what their pupils are, or are not understanding and use this to scaffold each segment of the lesson. During the lesson, misconceptions are dealt with immediately and **all** pupils are challenged.

Early Years Foundation Stage

- As in KS1 and KS2, formative assessment is used in the EYFS continuously to inform practitioners of next steps in learning and to determine the progress made.
- Summative assessments are made either termly or half termly to monitor children's learning and understanding
- Progress of all pupils is discussed at termly 'Pupil Progress Meetings' and focus children are identified and interventions put in place to support these children

KS1 and KS2

- In daily English lessons, formative assessments are made on a day-to-day basis. Practitioners observe, question and evaluate lesson outcomes to further determine progress made and the next steps in learning
- Phonics assessments are carried out half termly
- Reading fluency is assessed termly
- PIRA assessments are carried out termly
- Summative assessments are made at the end of each term to monitor children's knowledge and understanding of concepts taught
- Both formative and summative assessments are used to inform our online assessment system: O Track
 - Progress of all pupils is discussed at termly 'Pupil Progress Meetings' and focus children are identified and interventions put in place to support these children
 - Statutory assessments are made at the end of each key stage

Monitoring Procedures

The Headteacher, members of Senior Leadership Team and English subject leader play a central role in the monitoring and evaluation of the quality of teaching and learning of English at Brookfield Primary School.

Monitoring Strategies

- 'Book Looks' conducted termly
 - Lesson Visits
- Pupil progress meetings held termly

Impact

By the time our children leave Brookfield Primary School we want them to be confident in using and applying the English language. We want them to be confident, fluent readers who have a love for reading. They should have the skills to write in a range of genres for a purpose and convey meaning appropriately.

Our ultimate aim is that all pupils are well prepared for the next stage of their education.