



The Teaching of Reading and Writing at St John the Baptist School

The overarching aim for English in the national curriculum is to promote high standards of language and literacy by equipping pupils with a strong command of the spoken and written word, and to develop their love of literature through widespread reading for enjoyment. The national curriculum for English aims to ensure that all pupils:

- **read easily, fluently and with good understanding**
- **develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information**
- **acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing, spelling and spoken language**
- **appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage**
- **write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences**
- **use discussion in order to learn; they should be able to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas**
- **are competent in the arts of speaking and listening, making formal presentations, demonstrating to others and participating in debate.**

READING:

We use synthetic phonics for children to learn each 'Pure sound/phoneme'. All Foundation and KS1 children have a daily phonics session. Daily Guided Reading sessions are used in all KS1 classes for children to share a challenging text to analyse and interpret details and deeper meanings when working with the teacher. In KS2, the full range of reading skills are taught explicitly in daily lessons with children studying a wide range of texts. Children also have an opportunity to read independently with tasks set to encourage reflection and to check comprehension.

Children share high quality whole-class books for Shared Reading experiences and KS2 classes study the style of specific authors. We use a combination of reading scheme and 'real' books which have been combined through the system of 'book banding.' This ensures that we can provide our children with an interesting and varied range of texts. All children have access to the well-stocked school library. We encourage children to change their reading books as often as possible and we ask parents to listen to children read at home when possible and ask questions about character or plot to help support the children's understanding. Reading record books are used by children and parents to make notes and record views about their reading experiences.

WRITING:

We recognise the importance of presentation skills and encourage children to write neatly. Children learn cursive letter formation and receive a pen licence when a fluent style is achieved. In line with National expectations, children are expected to write in a variety of styles for specific realistic purposes and with an audience in mind. The writing process is taught through learning to edit, redraft and improve work.

Grammar skills are taught in all years through a range of short exercises relating to the shared and guided reading texts where possible. Precise grammar terminology is always encouraged. From Y2-Y6 we teach spelling patterns and rules weekly using whole-class and paired activities.