

## English Vision Statement

Subject Leader: Mr Carl Wake

Link Governor: Mrs Peta Rainford

### Why is English important?

At St Helens Primary School, we believe that English is at the heart of all children's learning; we work hard to build a stimulating and motivating curriculum; drawing clear links between all subjects; allowing every learner to be challenged to reach their potential and leaving primary school as responsible, happy citizens.

Through the English curriculum, we aim to provide an inclusive, inspiring and uniquely engaging English curriculum, where children are encouraged to become passionate about reading and writing.

St Helens Primary School aims to nurture creative thinking through developing a love of spoken and written language which will allow our learners to communicate effectively in the wider world.

### How do we teach English at St Helens Primary School?

Reading is at the heart of our curriculum. As children's reading develops at different rates, teaching is tailored to each child and their ability. Children will read daily in the classroom, either in shared reading, one to one reading or guided reading groups. Children are encouraged to read a range of books in school and at home. In EYFS and KS1, the teaching of systematic phonics encourages children to link sounds and letters and begin to read and write. Children are expected to apply their phonics skills in all areas of the curriculum. Phonics planning must allow children to gain a progressively deeper understanding of the phonetic structure of the English language as they move through the school to ensure all children are provided with the key tools needed to become a fluent reader.

We want our children to develop into skilful and imaginative writers across the curriculum. Writing is organised around a clear learning journey where children study and engage with a high quality text driver, practice the grammar skills necessary for the genre before progressing into extended writing and editing. Writing forms a significant part of all subjects across the curriculum. We pride

ourselves on good presentation skills in English and therefore we teach children at St Helens Primary School to write using a cursive script.

### The national curriculum and English coverage

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 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.

Please click on the following link for more information on the National Curriculum:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/335186/PRIMARY\\_national\\_curriculum\\_-\\_English\\_220714.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/335186/PRIMARY_national_curriculum_-_English_220714.pdf)

### Early Years Foundation Stage

Across EYFS, literacy knowledge and skills are also developed through the continuous provision of the environment. The classroom has resources available to be selected by the children to support their emergent reading and writing skills. These vary from phonics sounds cards to mini-books. A well-resourced book corner highlights the importance of reading to the children, and the writing tools are available for the pupils to access.

## Links with other subjects

The English curriculum filters through all other subject areas. The children participate in debates, deliver formal presentations, read extracts/texts/books, acquire new vocabulary, write clearly, accurately and coherently and discuss elaborately and explain their understanding and ideas.

## British Values

At St Helens Primary School we ensure that the teaching of English links directly to our British values by giving the children the opportunities to:

### Democracy

- Take the views and opinions of others into account
- Take turns and instructions from others
- Take part in classroom debates

### The Rule of Law

- Know that there are consequences in rules are not followed

### Individual liberty

- Make choices when planning
- Others may have different points of view as to where to start

### Tolerance

- Different cultures discussed through rich text drivers
- Religious beliefs discussed through rich texts drivers

### Mutual respect

- Work as a team
- Discuss findings
- Offer support and advice to others