

## Hockley Primary School

### English Curriculum

#### Teaching and Learning

At Hockley Primary School, the exploration and enjoyment of the English language is a priority. We use English to communicate in both written and spoken form. We use language to express our views about our world and to share ideas creatively. We believe that developing a love of our language in our children is vital to achieving success at school and later in life. We value all aspects of the English language - speaking, listening, reading and writing.

#### Daily Organisation

English is taught daily across the whole school.

In Early Years and Key Stage One, the children are grouped according to their abilities where appropriate and also have the opportunity to work collaboratively with children of different abilities. Once per week, during 'Big Writing' (Independent writing) sessions, the children in Key Stage One move into ability sets to allow for targeted input. Our planning is inclusive and differentiated to meet all children's talents, skills and abilities.

In Key Stage Two, the children are grouped by ability sets. Within these sets the planning remains fully inclusive and differentiated whilst the ability sets allow for teaching staff to support and extend the children in order to meet their needs.

#### Our Aims

Our aims in teaching Literacy are that all children will:

- develop the necessary skills to use the English language confidently, appropriately, and accurately to the best of their ability;
- be able to speak clearly and fluently;
- be able to listen to the spoken word attentively with understanding and pleasure;
- be literate.

#### Speaking

Children are encouraged to speak clearly, confidently and with expression. They are also encouraged to listen carefully to others and respond in appropriate ways. Across the whole curriculum, children are given opportunities to develop these vital skills. Role play and drama activities are built in across the school. Where needed, children are given additional support in this area in small intervention groups, for example 'Communication Cookbook.'

## **Reading**

A number of reading schemes are used within Early Years, Key Stage One and Key Stage Two (as well as a variety of other books to ensure a broad and balanced selection of books are accessed), including Big Cat Collins, Bug Club, and Oxford Reading Tree.

Weekly guided reading sessions for all ages is an important part of our curriculum. We use a variety of text types in these sessions as well as focused text work in class. Children work in focused groups to develop their reading skills and understanding of texts. Key Stage Two also have discrete comprehension lessons each week.

We aim to develop our children's love of books and focus on reading for pleasure. Our children take books home daily to share with their families. Children are encouraged to make their own reading choices from appropriate colour-banded selections, or from 'free-reading' choices once they are able to read at an appropriate level. Children may choose an additional book from our well-stocked library.

## **Phonics**

In Early Years and Key Stage One, we use the 'Letters and Sounds' phonics scheme as a framework for teaching phonics. Daily phonics groups take place as well as targeted interventions for those children requiring additional support/extension work. The children are set in ability groups during phonics lessons to ensure that they receive teaching relevant to the phase they are currently working on. The 'Letters and Sounds' scheme is then continued into the juniors for those who continue to need provision either in phase 1 - 5 or with a focus on spelling in phase 6 and beyond. Our termly phonics assessment tracker is passed up as the children move throughout the school to ensure for continuous provision.

## **Spelling**

A structured programme of spelling extends across the whole school. This is based around applying phonics skills and the learning of the rules of spelling. In Key Stage Two the children have a discrete weekly spelling lesson. At home we encourage parents to support their children by learning spelling patterns identified by the class teacher and applying these in their writing.

## **Writing**

We encourage children to become independent writers and to write clearly and with confidence. We teach them to use punctuation and grammar accurately during the starter session of each daily Literacy lesson, as well as across the whole curriculum. The children are taught how to edit and improve their own work. We encourage correct letter formation and neatly presented handwriting which is taught during weekly handwriting sessions. We give the children a wide range of opportunities in which to develop their writing skills of which they are proud.