

English at Walsgrave CE Academy

English is at the heart of our curriculum and we have updated our provision to ensure that we fully meet the statutory requirements of the 2014 National Curriculum programmes of study. Our English curriculum develops children's ability to listen, speak, read and write for a wide range of purposes, including the communication of their ideas, views and feelings. Children are enabled to express themselves creatively and imaginatively, as they become enthusiastic and critical readers of stories, poetry and drama, as well as of non-fiction and media texts. Children gain an understanding of how language works by looking at its patterns, structures and origins. Children use their knowledge, skills and understanding in spoken language and writing across a range of different contexts.

What does English look like at Walsgrave CE Academy?

At Walsgrave CE Academy, all children participate in a daily English lesson.

In Early Years, children are taught to read using the Read Write Inc phonics programme. This is complemented by opportunities to read, write, speak and listen every day, through planned and child-initiated activities linked to stories, poems and curriculum themes.

In Year 1, children complete Read Write Inc phonics for three days a week. This is taught in small focused ability groups which progress through the programme using its resources and linked texts. The final two sessions each week are based around a whole class writing task linked to core texts or creative curriculum themes.

In Years 2 to 6, children take part in a daily English lesson, working on units of English linked to core texts, narrative genres, poetry and creative curriculum themes. Lessons focus on one aspect of the teaching sequence for writing (reading, grammar, planning, drafting, editing to improve), leading to purposeful writing outcomes. Children have the opportunity to write at length at least once per fortnight, providing an opportunity to apply skills they have developed in focused English sessions.

Writing across the Curriculum

In addition to the writing opportunities as part of the English teaching sequence, there are planned activities within the new thematic curriculum to encourage children to apply their writing skills within a context where there is distance from the point of learning. This provides stimulating and purposeful opportunities to write, whilst revisiting and revising previous skills and learning.

Across our whole curriculum at Walsgrave CE Academy, we encourage children to develop confidence in their writing skills through seeking opportunities for purposeful writing. With the raised expectations of the new curriculum, we aim to support our children in becoming confident and proficient writers in all that they do.

Spelling and Handwriting

Spelling is taught using the Read Write Inc Spelling programme. This is begun in Y2, when children are secure with their knowledge and application of phonics, and continues throughout Key Stage 2. Children take part in three spelling sessions each week, focusing on spelling rules, patterns and conventions as detailed in the 2014 National Curriculum. These sessions also teach strategies for learning statutory word lists for Y2 - Y6. Children take home words to practice in order to consolidate their spelling accuracy. Handwriting is taught regularly, following the school's handwriting scheme, leading children to the development of a fluent, legible and efficient joined handwriting style.



Reading

At Walsgrave CE Academy, children are given opportunities to develop knowledge of different authors, text types and styles of writing in order to foster a real love of reading. The approach taken to the teaching of reading in our school allows us to focus on both of the key dimensions needed to become effective readers - word reading and language comprehension.

Word reading - this involves decoding unfamiliar printed words and quick recognition of familiar printed words. The predominant approach to teaching decoding used is phonics. At Walsgrave Academy, Read Write Inc Phonics is used as the core phonics programme. At the end of Year 1 children complete the statutory Phonics Screening Check to assess their ability to decode using phonics.

Language comprehension - this draws from linguistic knowledge (both vocabulary and grammar) and on knowledge of the world. Comprehension skills are taught through shared, guided and independent reading. Children are given opportunities to develop knowledge of different authors and styles of writing in order to foster a love of reading. Our reading spine is used to underpin the English long-term plan, and ensures a balance of classic, contemporary and well-loved fiction, including British and world authors, and includes classic and modern poetry. Children also read a range of non-fiction books, often linked to wider curriculum themes.

Narrative Reading Spine			
	Classic Tales	Well-loved Books	Contemporary Fiction
Year 1	<i>Dogger</i> Shirley Hughes	<i>Whatever Next!</i> Jill Murphy	<i>The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch</i> Ronda Armitage
Year 2	<i>The Twits</i> Roald Dahl	<i>The Owl who was afraid of the Dark</i> Jill Tomlinson	<i>Traction Man is Here!</i> Mini Grey
Year 3	<i>The Iron Man</i> Ted Hughes	<i>The Firework Maker's Daughter</i> Philip Pullman	<i>Claude in the City</i> Alex T Smith
Year 4	<i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> CS Lewis	<i>The Butterfly Lion</i> Michael Morpurgo	<i>Ratburger</i> David Walliams
Year 5	<i>The Turbulent Term of Tyke Tiler</i> Gene Kemp	<i>Goodnight Mister Tom</i> Michelle Magorian	<i>Wolf Brother</i> Michelle Paver
Year 6	<i>Kensuke's Kingdom</i> Michael Morpurgo	<i>Blitzed</i> Robert Swindells	<i>Stormbreaker</i> Anthony Horowitz

Poetry Reading Spine			
	Classic Poetry	Modern Poet Study	Forms of Poetry
Year 1	<i>Daddy Fell into the Pond</i> Alfred Noyes	Kit Wright	Playground / Nursery Rhymes
Year 2	<i>The Owl and the Pussycat</i> Edward Lear	Alan Ahlberg	Shape Poems and Calligrams
Year 3	<i>Overheard on a Saltmarsh</i> Harold Munro	Valerie Bloom	List Poems
Year 4	<i>The Listeners</i> Walter de la Mare	Michael Rosen	Riddles / Humorous Poetry
Year 5	<i>The Highwayman</i> Alfred Noyes	Tony Mitton	Nonsense Poetry
Year 6	<i>The Lady of Shalott</i> Alfred Tennyson	Benjamin Zephaniah	Free Verse

Reading Enrichment

Other opportunities for Reading enrichment include taking part in events such as 'World Book Day', 'National Storytelling Week', or the 'Summer Reading Challenge'. Walsgrave CE Academy also has a school library which aims to reflect a breadth of reading materials to encourage a real love of reading.



Competition entries for the most unusual place to read.



Children in class 2G enjoying World Book Day activities

Reading at Home

Children are encouraged to read a range of fiction and non-fiction books to support reading at home and these are organised using the Book Bands System. Home Reading books are chosen from a range of different schemes including Oxford Reading Tree, Big Cat, Pelican, and Heinemann World, and aim to provide a rich and varied diet for all of our readers.