



**St James' Catholic Primary
School**

Drama Policy

'I have loved you with an everlasting love'
Jeremiah 31:3

Date when school reviewed the policy	January 2017
Date when school adopted the policy	January 2017
Policy to be reviewed	January 2018
Signature of Chair of Governors	

What is Drama?

Drama is a performing art form which is focused on communication, shared experience, understanding and empathy. It involves the creation of characters and situations which are acted out within a safe environment and a designated space. Like all arts subjects, drama helps children to make sense of their world and their place within it. Drama enables children to express themselves creatively, imaginatively, and to communicate with others.

The Importance of Drama

Drama is all about developing the child as a whole. It builds confidence, teaches respect for others, and helps towards the understanding of different needs, cultures, and lives. Drama is an effective teaching tool, as practical learning is vital to understanding. It is an extremely effective way of communicating ideas and is particularly useful for lower attaining pupils and children with special educational needs.

Learning Outcomes

By learning through drama, all children will gain and develop:

- self-confidence
- the ability to work with others
- communication skills
- the skill of evaluating themselves and others
- creativity and self expression
- imagination, empathy and understanding
- debating and discussion skills
- listening and responding skills
- artistic awareness, including an understanding of a variety of dramatic techniques
- social awareness

Key Skills

Children in the Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 will experience taking part in the following:

- IMPROVISATION – both spontaneous and prepared
- DEBATES – both in and out of role
- PRESENTATIONS – performances, readings and PowerPoint presentations
- DISCUSSIONS – both as part of creative planning and general topic
- ROLE PLAY – in groups
- PERFORMANCES – on all levels: improvised, rehearsed and scripted
- EVALUATION – of their own and others' work

Drama at Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1

Drama will be used as a teaching tool throughout the whole curriculum to enhance children's understanding. This can be done especially in subjects such as; English, RE, history, geography and science. A greater emphasis will be put on drama in English lessons in order to compliment the Talk 4 Writing scheme. Children can explore stories and non-fiction texts through the following methods:

- Story mapping and actions
- Mime and movement
- Spontaneous improvisation
- Hotseating
- Tableaus
- Prepared improvisation
- Narration
- Teacher in role

Other ideas for drama activities can be taken from the Talk 4 Writing handbook.

In each classroom within the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, there will be a role play area set up. This will hold resources which are relevant to the current text that is being covered at the time. These could include, finger puppets, masks, dressing-up costumes and props. The children can then explore the text and its language independently through play.

Drama at Key Stage 2

Drama will be used as a teaching tool throughout the whole curriculum to enhance children's understanding of the subjects taught. This can be done especially in subjects such as; English, RE, history, geography and science. A greater emphasis will be put on drama in English lessons in order to compliment the Talk 4 Writing scheme. Children can explore stories and non-fiction texts through the following methods:

- Story mapping and actions
- Mime and movement
- Spontaneous improvisation
- Hotseating
- Tableaus
- Prepared improvisation

- Conscience alley
- Narration
- Teacher in role
- Whole class improvisation
- Thought-tracking
- Flashbacks

Other ideas for drama activities can be taken from the Talk 4 Writing handbook.

On Tuesday evenings, there will be a drama club for Key Stage 2 pupils. The children will be given the chance to take part in improvisation activities along with performances using dramatic techniques, such as: tableaux, thought tracks, cross cuts and flashbacks. During the summer term, all of the children involved in the drama club will team up with the dance group to rehearse and perform a musical theatre production. This will be led by Miss Mullan (Head of Drama) and Miss Carter (Head of Dance).

Opportunities to Experience Drama

Throughout the school year, all children will have numerous opportunities to watch and take part in drama outside of the classroom. These will include:

- Professional led workshops on curriculum subjects
- Professional led workshops on one-off topics, e.g. Shakespeare
- Trips to local theatres
- Visits from professional theatre companies