

# English Policy

## 1. Aims and objectives

The study of English develops children's abilities to listen, speak, read and write for a wide range of purposes, so using language to learn and communicate ideas, views and feelings. It enables children to express themselves creatively and imaginatively, as they become enthusiastic and critical readers of stories, poetry and drama, as well as non-fiction and media texts. Learners gain an understanding of how language works by looking at its patterns, structures and origins. Children use their knowledge, skills and understanding in speaking and writing across a range of different situations.

The aims of English are:

- to enable children to speak clearly and audibly in ways which take account of their listeners;
- to encourage children to listen with concentration in order to be able to identify the main points of what they have heard;
- to enable children to adapt their speech to a wide range of circumstances and demands;
- to develop children's abilities to reflect on their own and others' contributions and the language used;
- to enable children to evaluate their own and others' contributions through a range of drama activities;
- to read with confidence, fluency and understanding;
- to show an interest in books, read with enjoyment, evaluate and justify their preferences;
- understand phonics and use this knowledge to read and spell accurately
- to help children enjoy writing and recognise its value;
- to enable children to write with accuracy and meaning in narrative and non-fiction;
- to increase the children's ability to use planning, drafting and editing to improve their work;
- To develop a fluent and legible handwriting style.

## 2 Teaching and learning styles

2.1 At St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School we use a variety of teaching and learning styles in English lessons, taking the elements of best practice of the Renewed Framework for Literacy. Our principal aim is to develop children's knowledge, skills, and understanding in English and their ability to generalise these skills in other areas of learning. Learners have the opportunity to experience a wide range of texts and use a range of resources such as dictionaries, thesauruses and word banks to support their work. Children use ICT in English lessons where it enhances their learning, as

in drafting their work and using multimedia to study how words and images are combined to convey meaning. We encourage children to use and apply their learning in other areas of the curriculum.

2.2 There are children of differing ability in all classes at St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School. We recognise this fact and provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this through a range of strategies. In some lessons we do it through differentiated group work, while in other lessons we ask children to work from the same starting point before moving on to develop their own ideas. We use teaching assistants to support some children and to enable work to be matched to the needs of individuals.

2.3 There are children at St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School who are learning English as an additional language. Provision for these children is outlined in the English as an additional language policy.

2.4 St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School is an inclusive community outlined in The Equal Opportunities policy.

### 3 English curriculum planning

3.1 English is a core subject in the National Curriculum. We use the Renewed Framework for Literacy as a starting point in creative planning. Also as the basis for implementing the statutory requirements of the programme of study for English.

3.2 In accordance with the planning procedures English is planned both discretely and as a vehicle for learning in other areas e.g., the teaching of report writing for use in science. The Renewed Framework for Literacy encompasses the breadth of what is taught.

3.3 Our medium-term plans select the main teaching objectives for each term. These plans define what we teach and ensure an appropriate balance and distribution of work. The English subject leader is responsible for monitoring these plans which are stored in the teacher's classroom file.

3.4 Class teachers complete a cross curricular plan for the teaching of English. This details the specific learning objectives for each skill and gives details of how the skills are to be taught. It also includes details of what each group of children will be learning. The plans are stored in a classroom file and can be viewed by the subject leader and senior management team at any time.

3.5 Guided Reading is planned for separately and planning kept in individual classrooms.

3.6 English lessons are complemented by daily handwriting and spelling sessions. Teachers follow a Phonic first approach through Letters and Sounds and in addition Key stage 2 uses Support for Spelling from year 3.

#### 4 The Foundation Stage

We teach English in our reception class as an integral part of the school's work. We relate the English aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals which underpin the curriculum planning for children aged three to five. We give all children the opportunity to talk and communicate in a widening range of situations, to respond to adults and to each other, to listen carefully, and to practise and extend their range of vocabulary and communication skills. They have the opportunity to explore, enjoy, learn about, and use words and text in a range of situations.

#### 5 Contribution of English to teaching in other curriculum areas

5.1 The skills that children develop in English are linked to, and applied in, every subject of our curriculum. The children's skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening enable them to communicate and express themselves in all areas of their work in school.

##### 5.2 Mathematics

English contributes significantly to the teaching of mathematics in our school. Children in the Foundation Stage develop their understanding of number, pattern, shape and space by talking about these areas with adults and other children. Children in Key Stage 1 meet stories and rhymes that rely on counting and sequencing. Children in Key Stage 2 are encouraged to read and interpret problems in order to identify the mathematics involved. They explain and present their work to others during plenary sessions and they communicate mathematically through the developing use of precise mathematical language.

##### 5.3 Information and communication technology (ICT)

The use of ICT enables children to use and apply their developing skills in English in a variety of ways. Younger children use ICT as a source of information and as a way of enabling them to present their completed work effectively. Older children use the Internet when searching for information about a different part of the world, or when using desktop publishing to design a class newspaper. Children use the planning and proofing tools in a word processor when checking their draft work. We encourage all children to use ICT as a resource for learning, whenever they feel it is appropriate.

5.4 Personal, social and health education (PSHE), Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) and citizenship, English contributes to the teaching of PSHE, SEAL and citizenship. We encourage younger children to take part in class and group discussions on topical issues. In their science work they talk about things that improve their health and about rules for keeping them safe around the school. Learners in upper key stage 2 research and debate topical problems and events. They discuss lifestyle choices and

meet and talk with visitors who work within the school community. Planned activities within the classroom encourage children to work together and respect each other's views.

#### 5.5 Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

The teaching of English develops skills through which our children can give critical responses to the moral questions they meet in their work. Their understanding and appreciation of a range of texts brings them into contact with their own literary heritage and texts from other cultures. The organisation of lessons allows children to work together and gives them the chance to discuss their ideas and results.

#### 6. Teaching English to children with special needs

At St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School we teach English to all children, whatever their ability. English forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Teachers provide learning opportunities matched to the needs of children with learning difficulties. Work in English takes into account the targets set for individual children in their Individual Education Plans (IEPs). Teachers provide help with communication and literacy through:

- using texts that children can read and understand;
- using visual and written materials in different formats;
- using ICT, other technological aids and recorded materials;
- using alternative communication such as signs and symbols (including PECS);
- using translators and amanuenses.

#### 7 Assessment and recording

7.1 Teachers assess children's work in English in three phases. The formative assessments that teachers make as part of every lesson help teachers to adjust their daily plans. Teachers match these short-term assessments closely to the teaching objectives. Teacher's daily marking follows a system called tickled pink and green for growth and at least one group per day has a Quality mark (See Marking Policy for more information). They use formative (APP) and summative assessments (End of Key Stage tests and Optional Tests in Key Stage 2) to measure progress against the key objectives, and to help them plan for the next unit of work. Formative and summative assessments are used to evaluate progress against school and national targets. Fisher Family Trust, RAISEonline, Lancashire Tracker and other school data are as the basis for planning work for the new school year. Children undertake the national tests at the end of Year 2 and Year 6, plus the optional national tests at the end of Years 3, 4 and 5 to inform teacher assessment and APP judgements. At the end of each term, assessments of Reading and Writing are recorded using the Assessing Pupil Progress (APP), drawing on a range of evidence to inform their level judgements. Curricular Targets for reading and writing are agreed each term, based on the outcomes of the APP assessments.

## Resources

There is a range of resources to support the teaching of English across the school. All classrooms have dictionaries and a range of age-appropriate small apparatus. All classrooms have a selection of fiction and non-fiction texts. Children have access to the Internet through their classroom computer and/or the shared laptop provision. Teachers are encouraged to use Library loans to enhance the school library. Additionally there is a small bank of six Flip cameras to help with broadcasting.

## 9 Monitoring, evaluation and review

9.1 Monitoring of the standards of the children's work and of the quality of teaching in English is the responsibility of the English subject leader. The work of the subject leader also involves supporting colleagues in the teaching of English, being informed about current developments in the subject, and providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school. The subject leader meets termly with the head teacher and gives the governors an annual summary report in which she evaluates the strengths and weaknesses in the subject, and indicates areas for further improvement. The leader has specially-allocated management time in order to enable her to review samples of the children's work and undertake lesson observations of English teaching across the school. The named governor responsible for literacy meets regularly with the subject leader in order to review progress.

9.2 The quality and effectiveness of the English curriculum will be monitored and evaluated through regular reports to the Governors' Curriculum committee, and a vigorous programmed of whole School self-evaluation. The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

## **St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School - English Policy**

Sept 2010

Signed:

Date:

Review Date: September 2011