



English at Essex

Intent

We value and celebrate the rich and diverse language backgrounds of our pupils, whilst maintaining the highest expectations with regards to learning Standard English. We are passionate about enabling pupils to develop into lifelong learners who:

- Speak, read, (both for purpose and pleasure) and are able to write with flair and confidence
- Listen, speak, read and write for a wide range of purposes, including the communication of their ideas, views and feelings
- Have an extensive and rich vocabulary
- Have excellent comprehension skills
- Express themselves clearly, accurately, and imaginatively, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences
- Use discussion, elaborate and explain their understanding and ideas
- Make formal presentations and debate confidently
- Appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage

We recognise the importance of developing pupils' abilities within an integrated programme of spoken English, reading and writing. Our unique curriculum details the extensive cross-curricular links that we have established to ensure that English is taught within a broad and balanced curriculum.

Implementation

At Essex, we have a rigorous and well organised English curriculum. Core books are carefully selected to provide a range of high quality, challenging and culturally relevant texts. Pupils access books appropriate to their level of reading, which is tracked, ensuring all pupils are making excellent progress. Parent information sessions ensure parents are familiar with age related expectations and understand the importance of listening to their children read, daily.

Daily guided reading is timetabled to provide enriching experiences through more challenging texts. The sessions follow the reciprocal reading approach, emphasising high quality discussion through questioning. Class teachers will read to their class for the final ten to fifteen minutes of each school day enabling the children to hear fluent, expressive reading.

We follow the framework 'Letters and Sounds' to teach phonics daily. Handwriting is taught alongside phonics, making use of the kinaesthetic learning, helping children to internalise the letter shapes that go with the sounds.

English lessons are sequenced to focus on fiction, non-fiction and poetry, building progressively towards an extended piece of writing. Grammar is embedded in lessons and pupils gain an understanding of how language works by looking at its patterns, structures and origins.

Impact

Regular monitoring of planning, lessons and pupils' work, shows the clear progress they make. The writing journey is established across the school and pupils are confident in writing for different purposes and audiences. Skills taught in the English lesson are transferred into other subjects; which allows for consolidation and a deeper understanding of how and when to use subject specific vocabulary, punctuation and grammar.

As a result, we have confident readers and writers who enjoy showcasing their knowledge and skills. They love to articulate their thoughts and ideas with one another and understand the value of English to them now, and in their futures. Their enjoyment of reading is preparing them for the next steps in their education as they transition into secondary provision.

Enrichment

We celebrate National Poetry Day, Roald Dahl Day, World Book Day, Shakespeare and National Storytelling Week. We organise termly competitions to celebrate and bring the whole school together to concentrate on one theme. We take part in the Spelling Bee and Debate competitions with local schools.