



New Road Primary and Nursery School

English Subject Policy

Intent of the School's Curriculum

A child who attends New Road Primary School and Nursery will be:

a positive person who is well read; great at learning; motivated and curious with a breadth of experience; whose family is supportive of what the school can offer.

All staff at New Road Primary and Nursery School are committed to ensuring that every child:

- Will be a really good reader, know lots of words and how to use them!
- Will know how to be a great person and how to learn really well!
- Will have lots of different experiences both in and outside of school!
- Will be motivated and curious as a result of excellent teaching and a great curriculum!
- Will have lots of opportunities to involve their family in what happens at school!

The National Curriculum (2014) clearly states that teaching the English language is an essential, if not the most essential role of a primary school. We know that we have a duty to ensure that English teaching is a priority and we recognise that this is necessarily cross-curricular and a constant throughout school life and beyond. It is part of the 'essential knowledge' (p6 National Curriculum) that is needed in society: 'Teachers should develop pupils' spoken language, reading, writing and vocabulary as integral aspects of the teaching of every subject. English is both a subject in its own right and the medium for teaching; for pupils, understanding the language provides access to the whole curriculum. Fluency in the English language is an essential foundation for success in all subjects' (P10 National Curriculum).

English provides an essential means of communication, both in and out of school and it enables pupils to express themselves creatively and imaginatively. We believe that children need to develop their use of language in order to learn, and to play a full and active role as individuals within society; it is the key to independent learning. We see the need to acquire and develop language skills as a major part of the school curriculum. English is therefore given a high priority at New Road.

Aims and Purposes

The overarching aim for English in the national curriculum is to promote high standards of language and literacy by equipping pupils with a strong command of the spoken and written word, and to develop their love of literature through widespread reading for enjoyment. The national curriculum for English aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Read easily, fluently and with good understanding.
- Develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information.
- Acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language.
- Appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage.
- Write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences.
- Use discussion in order to learn; they should be able to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas.
- Are competent in the arts of speaking and listening, making formal presentations, demonstrating to others and participating in debate.
- Encourage children to reach their potential in a language rich environment in Literacy lessons and throughout other curriculum areas.

Key Areas of Focus

Spoken Language

“Talk is not merely a conduit for sharing information, or a means for controlling the exuberance of youth; it is the most important educational tool for guiding the development of understanding and for jointly constructing knowledge.” Hodgkins and Mercer, *Exploring Talk in Schools*.

We encourage our pupils to speak clearly and confidently and articulate their views and opinions. We teach children to express themselves orally in an appropriate way, matching their style and response to audience and purpose, listening and responding to literature, giving and receiving instructions. Children develop the skills of participating effectively in group discussions. From Reception to Year 6, all children are encouraged to:

- Justify ideas with reasons.
- Ask questions to check understanding.
- Develop vocabulary and build knowledge.
- Negotiate.
- Evaluate and build on the ideas of others.
- Select the appropriate register for effective communication.
- Give well-structured descriptions and explanations.
- Speculate, hypothesise and explore ideas.
- Organise their ideas prior to writing.

Phonics

We aim to provide high quality, systematic phonic work taught discretely in Read, Write, Inc. sessions throughout early years, Key Stage 1 and to children who still require phonics teaching at Key Stage Two (See Read, Write, Inc Policy for more information).

Writing

At New Road, we place a high value on writing. The children are encouraged to:

- Develop the stamina and skills to write at length.
- Use accurate spelling and punctuation.
- Be grammatically correct.
- Write in a range of ways and purposes including narratives, explanations, descriptions, comparisons, summaries and evaluations.
- Write to support their understanding and consolidation of what they have heard or read.

Teachers consistently monitor children's writing and partake in rigorous cross phase moderations to ensure that there is consistency throughout school. Our curriculum planning and teaching demonstrates a clear balance between skills and content; a wide range of genres to be studied; interesting stimuli that encourage active learning (drama, singing, ICT etc.) and writing outcomes that have purpose and an audience.

Teaching of Writing

At New Road, it is important that the children are aware that writing is a necessity for life and we ensure that every opportunity is taken to plan for cross curricular links in our curriculum. To ensure that there is a seamless link between reading and writing, teachers plan a 'whole book approach' which uses one main text to teach all reading and writing from. Children are encouraged to find key structures and grammatical features of the text and use these in their own writing. Teachers model the expected standard of writing using key skills which will be specifically taught in each year group, in accordance with the National Curriculum 2014 objectives.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

The curriculum for the early years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is organised into 7 areas of learning and Early Learning Goals (ELGs). The areas of learning that link specifically to English are:

- Communication and Language which includes listening and attention, understanding and speaking.
- Physical development in particular the moving and handling aspect of learning and development.
- Literacy which includes reading and writing.

Handwriting

At New Road, we have adopted the Letterjoin handwriting scheme which is taught to all children from Reception to Year 6.

Please see separate Handwriting Policy

Reading

We ensure that the children leaving Key Stage 2 can read fluently, understand extended prose and read for pleasure. Reading is singled out as of extreme importance since through it 'reading allows pupils to 'acquire knowledge' and to 'build on what they already know' (National Curriculum 2014 p13). Children are taught how to decode words through high quality phonics teaching as well as how to understand texts through regular class, guided and one to one reading sessions.

Teaching of Reading

At New Road, we not only teach children how to read, we aim to nurture a love of reading. We teach English using a whole book approach. Our English Curriculum Map ensures that every child is exposed to good quality literature as they move through school. These books have been chosen as core texts that will inspire and engage our children and help drive our English Curriculum. The teaching of reading is also embedded in the wider curriculum, giving children opportunity to transfer and apply their reading skills in other subjects. The school uses a variety of books from a wide range of scheme and non- scheme publications. In Reception, Key Stage 1 and Lower Key Stage 2, books are banded and teachers choose specific books for children to take home and read. In Upper Key Stage 2, children are allowed to choose books themselves, from the classroom or Library.