



## ST. ANDREW'S WRITING CURRICULUM

### WRITING CURRICULUM INTENT

At St. Andrew's, our English Curriculum is designed to develop literate, creative and confident writers. We inspire skilled and competent writers who will continue their school journey being able to communicate clearly, imaginatively and accurately. Writing opens doors to wider opportunities; it is an essential skill to fully participate in society. All our children will be able to adapt their language and style for a range of concepts in the future. Our broad and balanced curriculum has been designed to develop a passion for writing. The children at St. Andrew's will leave us having found their shining inner author and use writing as a way to confidently express themselves.

The English Curriculum contributes to the St Andrew's Core Values:

**Compassion:** All children learn about key issues that are both reflective of their circumstances and the wider world. Through this learning, children write for a range of different purposes: such as letters, balanced arguments and persuasion.

**Achieve:** All children achieve good progress from their starting points and our lessons are crafted to ensure that all children can achieve and communicate effectively so that their intentions are clear.

**Respect:** Respect for others is woven through our lessons by scaffolding and modelling appropriate responses to others' contributions. All children are encouraged to celebrate their peers' writing and responses in a respectful manner.

**Enjoy:** Immersion in carefully selected books and topics enables all children to enjoy their learning and create high quality English work.

## WRITING CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION

At St. Andrew's, we ensure that our English planning follows a clear progression of skills and ensures that there is full coverage of, 'The National Curriculum programmes of study for English 2014'. The curriculum is adapted and extended to match all pupils' needs and builds upon their prior knowledge and skills. We endeavour to practise English skills in all subjects across the curriculum; appreciating that they are the fundamental building blocks for learning as a whole.

At St Andrew's, we pride ourselves on the consistent approach to teaching and learning that can be observed across all phases of school. This is achieved through our commitment to CPD and quality first teaching on a daily basis.

### CURRICULUM CONTENT & DELIVERY

Our personalised English curriculum is built on Jonathan Bond's Curriculum. We have chosen to adapt this in order to support the progression of our children and their needs.

English is taught daily to every child in every year group. There is a daily writing lesson of an hour, bi-weekly grammar lesson, a daily handwriting session in the Autumn Term and a daily dedicated spelling session.

To achieve successful outcomes, all lessons explore the writing structure and features of different genres, identify the purpose and audience, plan and write an initial piece of writing with a clear context and purpose before evaluating and editing. Additionally, we focus on vocabulary and author voice, using a wide range of precise authorial techniques.

#### Language Acquisition:

Our children learn how to understand the relationships between words, word meaning, implied meaning and figurative language within writing lessons, whilst ensuring that children are supported in their spelling strategies. Children are taught to control their speaking and writing consciously using correct Standard English and understanding the importance of this.

#### Grammar:

Grammar is based on The National Curriculum (Appendix 2) and builds towards the end of key stage framework so that all children are prepared to leave St Andrew's with a comprehensive grammar understanding. These are taught both discreetly and in context.

#### Spelling:

Spelling is taught daily for 15 minutes. Through a series of techniques, including syllables and sounds, children are exposed to age appropriate spellings, regardless of their starting points. This ensures that we continue to have high expectations for all our children, while filling their gaps at other opportunities.

#### Handwriting:

Handwriting is a key focus at St. Andrew's. In order to reduce cognitive load for all when writing, in the Autumn Term, all children focus on developing their letter formation and their continuous cursive joins.

### EQUALITY FOR ALL

We have worked hard to ensure that our curriculum represents a wide range of identities and cultures. We encourage our children to question and challenge views and be confident about expressing themselves. Acceptance and awareness are at the heart of our mission for equalities to prepare our children to be kind, caring and respectful citizens.

Inclusion is an encompassing belief at St Andrew's and we are committed to giving all of our children every opportunity to achieve the highest of standards. We believe that every child deserves the chance to experience success; something we achieve by taking into account pupils' varied life experiences and needs. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum and ensure the curriculum is accessible for those with disabilities or special educational needs (Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014). The achievements, attitudes and well-being of all our children matter.

## **CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT**

To develop their understanding of the wider world and their role as future citizens, our writing curriculum ensures children are immersed in a variety of topics. These range from the study of War Horse set in WWI to different positions and circumstances in modern society. All these topics ensure that the cultural capital of our children is well-developed so they are rounded individuals with an appreciation for the different situations many people face.

## **WRITING CURRICULUM IMPACT**

The assessment of writing takes place half termly. The children use their learning from the same term to write an independent piece of writing based on a specific topic. This is assessed against carefully chosen objectives which build learning for the children at St. Andrew's as they work towards the end of Key Stage 2. All children have a designated book for these assessments which follows them through their learning journey and allows progress to be clearly seen.

Leaders monitor the subject closely through book looks, learning walks, pupil voice and data gathered from assessments. A designated Governor also monitors the subject and meets regularly with the subject lead. We raise the profile of English through termly 'spotlights' in the school newsletter; recognising the impact that it is having across the school to parents. Through a shared collaboration with other local schools, the staff undertake termly monitoring assessment with other staff in the same year group. This develops good practise.

The impact of our curriculum is clear: progress, sustained learning and transferable skills. Pupils will make at least good progress from their individual starting points. The writing journey will support pupils to become more confident writers by the time they leave St. Andrew's at the end of Key Stage 2. Our pupils will be able to write for a range of purposes and audiences, manipulating grammar and punctuation. They will be creative writers with a passion for English.

As all aspects of English are an integral part of the curriculum, cross-curricular writing will be of the same standard as that produced in English lessons. This shows consolidation of skills and a deeper understanding of how and when to use specific grammar and punctuation. We hope that we fulfil our school's vision: to ensure every child shines.