

Oakfield Primary School English

At Oakfield Primary School, we aim to promote high standards of language and literacy by equipping the children with a strong command of the spoken and written word. We believe that developing a love of our language in our children is vital in achieving success at school and later in life.

The aims of our teaching reflect the aims of the national curriculum and 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.

Planning

Our planning links all areas of the literacy curriculum with our creative curriculum. Literature is interwoven as stimuli for speaking and listening, reading and writing opportunities. Grammar, punctuation and spelling are taught in context, using books to provide examples. Each year group has a literacy overview showing what will be delivered during the year. The overviews are working documents; they are reviewed to reflect the needs of the current cohort.

Reading

At Oakfield Primary School children are taught to read widely, fluently and confidently. We teach children to read using a range of strategies, including a synthetic phonic approach, blended approach to comprehension, guided and shared reading and through individualised programmes such as Rapid Read. Children have the chance to take a reading book from our banded reading scheme. Books in this scheme range from lilac to black and are a mixture of real books and published schemes.

Alongside their reading book children have their own reading log. In KS1, their reading log is a written record of how often children read, with space for a parent's comment. In Lower key stage 2, this extends to a written response half-termly and in Upper Key Stage 2 to a personal log kept of their reading with their own response.

Writing

At Oakfield Primary School, children are taught to produce, organise and present texts appropriate to a variety of tasks, readers and purposes.

Our overviews support the New National Curriculum, covering the eight main purposes for writing: -

- to inform
- to explain
- to discuss
- to describe
- to entertain
- to advise
- to instruct
- to persuade

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling

Key grammar and punctuation skills are taught within the writing units. For spelling we use a structured programme following Letters and Sounds. No Nonsense Spelling throughout years 2 - 6, Rapid Phonics and Toe by Toe interventions are used to support specific spelling needs.

Speaking and Listening

Opportunities for speaking and listening are planned throughout our creative curriculum. These opportunities include:

- structured imaginative play
- response to familiar rhymes, games and stories
- storytelling
- inventing characters, with or without the use of materials and props
- developing and sustaining a role
- devising short scenes
- interpreting poems, scripts in a dramatic presentation
- exploring issues and dilemmas
- participation in festivals, assemblies, presentations and productions
- improvisation