



MAPLE GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL

English Policy

Reviewed: September 2015

ENGLISH POLICY

At Maple Grove Primary School we help children develop the skills and knowledge that enable them to communicate effectively and creatively through spoken and written language and equip them with the skills to become lifelong learners. We want children to enjoy and appreciate literature and its rich variety.

We follow the 'English Planning Kit' that is a resource to support planning and deliver the 2014 National Curriculum coherently and effectively. This includes:

Writing

- Planning, composing and evaluating
- Vocabulary, grammar and punctuation
- Text type progression-to ensure a well-balanced, progressive curriculum

Reading

- Word reading
- Being a reader,
- Reading comprehension
- Being a researcher

Transcription

- Spelling
- Handwriting and presentation

Spoken Language

- Speaking
- Listening
- Discussion
- Drama

Writing

The 'English Planning Kit' reflects the National Curriculum's organisation of writing into planning, composing and evaluating.

There should be opportunities for writing planned throughout the week with the same high expectations for grammar, punctuation, spelling and presentation in all subjects.

Working walls are essential in promoting the journey and development of talk and vocabulary, leading to a final piece of writing. An example of the writing is to be displayed so that the children are aware as to the purpose of the writing and what is to be achieved.

Throughout the week, English is taught through a variety of ways using film, visual stimulants, elements of 'Talk for Writing' and VCOP. VCOP is integral to Maple Grove's learning environment.

Big Writing is a primary approach to teaching writing. It is used to promote a rich vocabulary that is applied in all subjects and has been adapted to suit our school. ***Please see our WRITING policy.***

Reading and Phonics

At Maple Grove Primary we are proud to promote reading skills for life. We teach reading through the use of Systematic Synthetic Phonics and mainly use Letters and Sounds in order to develop children's early phonological recognition and awareness.

Once children are secure in their use of sounds for word building, we encourage them to apply their skills using a range of texts. We use the Oxford Reading Tree resources as our main scheme for progressive reading development; however this is supplemented with a huge selection of 'real' picture books that are available in classrooms and in the school library. The KS1 school library also provides a rich resource for non-fiction texts; where children select books that give them information about a wide range of subjects and poetry books.

EY and KS1 children are all taught reading skills during a daily phonics session. Basic skill sessions that include phonics (that also underpins the spelling) are timetabled for KS2.

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage children also have reading skills sessions timetabled during the week that teaches explicit reading comprehension skills based on the 'English Toolkit' and also promotes reading for pleasure.

Our more able readers in KS1 (once they have read through the stages of the Oxford Reading tree) are encouraged to widen their reading experiences with a range of chapter books that are graded as bronze, silver and gold.

As a child progresses to become an independent reader, they can select from a range of books, choosing books that appeal to them personally.

Each class has a reading incentive scheme. This is based on Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and invites the child to read 10 books at home in order to earn a 'Golden Ticket'. Once the child has received their 'Golden Ticket', they may exchange it for a small prize.

Entitlement

We want every child to take pleasure in reading across a range of genres and have a strong motivation to read for a variety of purposes. All children at Maple Grove Primary have access to a wide range of reading opportunities that include:

- Reading skill sessions
- Shared reading
- Regular independent reading
- Home/school reading
- Hearing books read aloud on a weekly basis
- Selecting own choice of texts
- Reading in other subjects

Spelling

All children in KS1 and KS2 are given regular weekly spellings and/or investigations to support the heightened expectations of the National Curriculum. Sessions are timetabled throughout the week that focuses on a variety of strategies such as dictation and spelling games.

Handwriting

Children are taught cursive writing from Early Years. Handwriting is incorporated in the basic skill sessions throughout the week. The teacher may teach small bite sized sessions 5/10 mins or devote a whole session to handwriting.