



St Luke's RC Primary School



English

Subject Intent

Here at St Luke's R.C. Primary School we recognise the value that a high-quality English curriculum can offer to our pupils.

All year groups follow the Read to Write units, which provide consistency and the opportunity for high-quality teaching of writing through children's high-quality literature (Vehicle Texts). The units of work centre on engaging, vocabulary-rich texts, with a wealth of writing opportunities. Each class produces 12 pieces of extended writing a year following the process of immerse, analyse, plan and write. All 12 pieces of work are published and displayed across school to celebrate the high standard of writing. In addition to the 12 extended pieces of writing the children have numerous opportunities to do incidental writes linking to their vehicle text. The expectation of writing in all areas from spelling, grammar, handwriting and content is high in all units of Read to Write.

What is in the Read to Write units?

- Clear Sequential Episodes of Learning
- Example Texts (greater depth WAGOLL)
- Learning Objectives that link to the teaching sequence (Immerse, Analyse, Plan Write)
- Vocabulary Learning
- Contextualised Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation
- Sentence Accuracy Work
- Progressions Documents with Year Group Expectations
- Example Planning Format
- Wider Reading for the Wider Curriculum
- Explicit Links to the National Curriculum

At St Luke's R.C. we provide a wide variety of reasons and purposes for writing and in the Early Years we provide a wide range of opportunities for child-initiated writing and mark making. As soon as children are able to form most letters correctly and have a good pencil grip, we teach a fluent and legible handwriting style that empowers children to write with confidence and creativity. We encourage children to 'have a go' at writing as soon as they are ready and to use their phonic skills and spelling knowledge within their writing.

All our pupils are entitled to access a broad and balanced English curriculum. During their time at St. Luke's, our children will read and write a wide variety of poetry, plays, fiction and non-fiction texts (including recounts, instructions, newspaper reports, information texts and persuasive pieces). Class reads, theatre productions and class visits are all used as a means of generating and supporting creativity in writing. Our children experiment by constructing imaginative sentences and carefully selecting vocabulary in their writing to create effect. We place a strong emphasis on children developing and improving their own writing. Our pupils are encouraged to evaluate the effectiveness of their work, and to reread, amend, edit and write their work in their Golden Books to achieve a higher standard.

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar: Children from Years 1 to 6 are given lists of spellings to learn at home. Each week, this is reinforced with set activities on an interactive Spelling Shed

scheme. Children are taught discrete spelling, punctuation and grammar lessons every day through the Sentence Accuracy, Read to Write and Spelling Shed.

Handwriting is a demanding and complex skill which takes time to perfect. At St. Luke's R.C. our aims are:

- For all pupils to develop a legible and fluent style of handwriting
- To promote a consistent letter shape and size
- To raise motivation and self esteem
- To establish and maintain a high profile for handwriting and presentation skills
- For excellent handwriting habits to impact positively on the content of written work

To achieve these aims we use the Martin Harvey handwriting scheme.

Work is marked and assessed in line with the Marking and Assessment policies and three yearly meetings involve teachers moderating the assessment of this work.

Work is assessed using a year group tracker for writing, which outlines the expected standards for the children to achieve when working towards, at the expected and at a greater depth standard. The findings of the assessment are used to inform planning to help the teaching and learning process.

All our pupils are encouraged to develop their spoken language skills, as well as being expected to speak politely, clearly and correctly. Pupils are supported in conveying their ideas fluently and confidently and to ask questions. Our children speak in class celebration assemblies, plays and mass. They are encouraged to be members of Pupil Parliament, the Eco-council, reading club as well as others. Our older pupils experience opportunities to speak out in their roles as prayer leaders, and gain confidence in speaking to visitors to our school.

Our English curriculum allows our pupils to acquire the necessary skills needed for secondary school and independence in life.

National Curriculum Aims

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.