



English Policy

2019

ST. STEPHEN'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL
Uxbridge Road, Shepherds Bush, London W12 8LH



Rationale

English unites the important skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. Literacy skills are taught in class during English lessons but are also encouraged and applied in other lessons and important areas of school life such as class assemblies, drama productions, humanities lessons and SMSC / RE discussions. At St Stephen's, we continually look for opportunities to promote literacy skills through all areas of the curriculum.

Aims & Objectives

Speaking and Listening: At St Stephen's, our objective is for our pupils to develop increasing confidence and competence in speaking and listening so they are able to...

- Clarify and express their ideas and explain their reasoning.
- Adapt speech to a widening range of circumstances, including paired and group discussions and speaking to a large audience.
- Use specialised and varied vocabulary
- Speak for a variety of purposes (narrate, analyse, explain, reflect, evaluate...)
- Listen with understanding and respond sensitively and appropriately.

Reading

At St Stephen's, our objective is to foster an enjoyment of reading and of literature in our pupils. We wish to enable them to use their reading for pleasure and in or to help them learn by developing increasing confidence and competence in reading so they are able to:

- Read fluently, accurately and with understanding
- Become independent and critical readers who make informed and appropriate choices.
- Select information from a wide range of texts and sources including print, media and ICT and evaluate those sources
- Apply techniques such as skimming, scanning and text annotation effectively in order to research with and appraise texts.
- Develop sophisticated comprehension skills that allow pupils to retrieve and infer information from a range of text types.

Writing

At St Stephen's, our objective is for our pupils to develop increasing confidence and competence in writing so that they are able to:

- Write using expressive and interesting vocabulary to engage and manipulate the reader.
- Write in a variety of forms for different purposes - e.g. to interpret, evaluate, summarise, explain, analyse or explore.
- Write confidently in a variety of genres and styles
- Develop ideas and communicate meaning to a reader using wide ranging and technical vocabulary, an effective style, organizing and structuring sentences grammatically and whole texts coherently.
- Have a clear understanding and knowledge of grammatical conventions and terminology.
- Present their writing clearly, using accurate punctuation, correct spelling and legible handwriting.
- Apply word processing conventions and understand the principles of authoring a multi-media text.
- Dictionaries, glossaries and lists of appropriate subject vocabulary are provided and children encouraged to use them



- Help pupils use a range of strategies to learn spellings, including:
 - Look-say-write-cover
 - Making connections between words with same spelling patterns
 - Exploring word families
 - Phonetic knowledge and understanding

Approaches to Teaching and Learning

- Objectives taught through daily English lessons with clear Lesson Objectives and Success Criteria.
- The study of English is split into 3 areas: Reading (word reading and comprehension), Writing (transcription, composition and vocabulary, grammar and punctuation) and Spoken Language.
- A variety of genres and media types are explored over the course of study to provide depth and breadth of learning including fiction, non-fiction and poetry.
- Each English unit is assessed at the end with an 'end task' which is assessed against key success criteria. This assessment, plus formative assessment from the class teacher, is used to inform further planning.
- Each unit lasts between 2 and 4 weeks.
- There is a strong emphasis on pupil editing and self-assessment
- ICT is an integral part of Literacy for pupils to edit redraft and present work in a variety of media.

In the foundation stage, emphasis is upon phonics (Read, Write Inc) and teaching the pupils to read. The discrete teaching of phonics continues in Years 1 and 2. In the summer term, Year 1 completes a national phonics assessment.

A wide range of teaching strategies will be employed to deliver the objectives:

- Collaborative work
- Demonstration
- Modelling of reading and writing
- Range of questioning
- Self-assessment and review
- Peer support and assessment
- Listening and presentation of ideas
- Independent/ group research

Planning

Clear and careful planning is important to the success of the teaching and learning of English. Lessons are planned in phases with reference to the NC English objectives. Assessment is carefully planned into each phase. It is vital that effective use of assessment material is used to inform planning and monitor progression.

Lessons follow a clear teaching sequence and teachers will plan differentiated activities to meet the individual needs within their class.

Teacher's focused teaching or additional support will also be incorporated in the planning.



Assessment

A range of assessment opportunities will be planned for the end of each unit. These take the form of an end piece of writing that encapsulates the child's learning as well as self-assessment, observations, discussions and shared work.

The end piece of writing for each unit is assessed against key criteria and targets are given to help the child progress.

In addition there are:

- Formal writing, reading and SPAG assessments completed from years 1-6 at the end of half each term.
- Informal reading and comprehension assessments completed every half term.
- Spelling tests weekly
- Regular informal grammar and punctuation assessments
- Regular informal phonics assessments in Reception and Year 1

Resources

- Each class has a well-stocked book corner.
- All classes have weekly access to our well-stocked library and are assisted by our librarian to choose and think books and reading.
- Guided reading material is stored in phases and covers a wide range of genres – both as part of 'Read, Write Inc' scheme and independently.
- Dictionaries and thesauruses are available in every class.
- Reception and Keystage 1 use a range of phonic resources recommended for use with Read Write Inc scheme.
- Year 2 and KS2 classes have Spelling Bank books to enable their writing.
- In all classrooms, pupils have access to individual whiteboards and pens.
- The children are all learning within a language rich environment.
- Key words and alternatives are accessible to pupils.
- Access to ICT resources (laptops, ipads etc) allows children to use a range of media as well as word process, create presentations, publish in a variety of forms and complete research.

Enrichment opportunities

At St Stephen's, we offer a wide range of enrichment opportunities to reinforce, support and develop English skills and appreciation throughout the school.

These include:

- Class assemblies
- Drama classes (within school time & in clubs) for Foundation, KS1 and 2
- Whole School Summer production.
- Arts Week - where pupils work with poets, authors, theatre companies, drama specialists, illustrators and parents.
- Regular reading with volunteer parents as well as St Stephen's staff.
- Weekly buddy reading with Reception and Year 6
- Visits to school library
- Educational visits
- Visits from travelling theatre companies and storytellers



- Involvement with projects in the borough (Children's Parliament, Anti-Bullying week...)
- Cross curricular trips including to places of worship, museums and exhibitions.



