



*'Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it.' Proverbs 22:6*

## **Christ Church C of E Primary School**

### **Literacy Intent, Implementation & Impact**

#### **Intent**

At Christ Church CE Primary School we believe that a quality Literacy (English) curriculum should develop children's love of reading, writing and discussion. One of our priorities is helping children read and develop their all-important comprehension skills. We recognise the importance of nurturing a culture where children take pride in their writing, can write clearly and accurately adapt their language and style for a range of contexts. We want to inspire children to be confident in the art of speaking and listening and who can use discussion to communicate and further their learning.

We believe that children need to develop a secure knowledge-base in Literacy, which follows a clear pathway of progression as they advance through the primary curriculum. We believe that a secure basis in literacy skills is crucial to a high quality education and will give our children the tools they need to participate fully as a member of society.

#### **Implementation**

These aims are embedded across our literacy lessons and the wider curriculum. We have a rigorous and well-organised English curriculum and framework that provides many purposeful opportunities for reading, writing and discussion. We use a wide variety of quality texts and resources to motivate and inspire our children. Teachers also ensure that cross-curricular links with concurrent topic work are woven into the programme of study.

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

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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.

At Christ Church, children begin their reading journey in Nursery where children begin to learn sounds using Essential Letters and Sounds. This scheme is used through Reception and Key Stage One where the children learn sounds, blending skills and develop fluency and expression when reading. Once the children are confident with Phonics, they move onto Reading sessions that focus on their comprehension skills. In addition to these reading sessions, children participate in a Big Reading session weekly. Reading at home is also encouraged by sending home a range of books. The children take home books that match their reading ability throughout the school. Reception and Key Stage One children take home phonetically decodable books linked directly to their phonics teaching as well as a 'Book for sharing' from the Project X Reading Scheme. Key Stage Two children continue with the Project X reading scheme until their reading age is above the final level. Year 3 upwards have Reading Plus accounts where they complete half termly assessments. These assessments allow us to direct free readers to suitable ZPD books in our library so that all reading books are matched to the children's level. Reading across the curriculum is also encouraged so opportunities for reading are planned in foundation subjects. Children in Key Stage 2 who still require phonics teaching are taught using Essential Letters and Sounds Progress to ensure their phonetic knowledge allows them to access age appropriate texts.

At Christ Church, we identify children who need support and provide intervention in the most effective and efficient way that we can. We run intervention reading groups and 1:1 phonics tutoring

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that is delivered by teaching assistants. Children on the SEND register will be supported in Early Years through Well Comm to support and improve the communication and language skills needed to engage in reading and comprehension tasks. Throughout the rest of the school, SEND children may receive support, using approaches such as Words First. Teachers plan and teach English lessons which are differentiated to the particular needs of each child. We help each child maximise their potential by providing help and support where necessary whilst striving to make children independent workers once we have helped to equip them with the confidence, tools and strategies that they need.

Writing at Christ Church links to the high quality texts shared in Reading sessions from Year 1 onwards or topic link stories in Nursery and Reception. We use Talk for Writing and I'm a Clever Writer to allow the children to fully embed themselves in the story, learn the features of the text type and develop the necessary skills for writing them. As part of our I'm a Clever Writer checklists in each year group, we use Colourful Semantics to support the children in their verbal rehearsal and structuring of sentences, as well as a support tool to demonstrate and teach grammatical skills. This is vitally important at Christ Church as many children enter Christ Church below age related expectation.

We run 'Come and Learn with me' sessions on phonics for EYFS and Key Stage 1 parents, reading and SATs for Year 2 parents and a SATs meeting for Year 6 parents so that they understand age-related expectations. Parents and carers who attend often share how useful these are and this information is made available on the school website.

Marking is rigorous in English, with regular 'Challenge Times' and spelling corrections to help children correct and consolidate their work. Regular English book scrutinies are carried out to check all teachers are following our marking policy rigorously.

We love to celebrate success of all learners and strive to help all children achieve their goals. English is celebrated in classrooms and around school at Christ Church, where each class have a Reader

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of the Week and a Writer of the Week. In addition, throughout the school year our literacy curriculum is enhanced through World Book Day, an annual Reading competition, drama workshops and a range of trips and visits that enrich and complement children's learning.

## Impact

Many of our children begin their education at Christ Church well below age related expectations. The impact of our Literacy curriculum on our children is clear. The children make vast progress from their individual starting points. With the implementation of the writing journey being well established and taught thoroughly across the school, children are becoming more confident writers and by the time they are in upper Key Stage 2, most genres of writing are familiar to them and the teaching can focus on creativity, writer's craft, sustained writing and manipulation of grammar and punctuation skills.

Termly assessment is showing that an increasing number of children at Christ Church are achieving in Literacy at age-related expectations. Each year we have children achieving at a greater depth in reading and writing at the end of KS1 and are working hard to emulate that at the end of KS2. We hope that all the literacy initiatives outlined above will help to boost children's learning and progress.

As all aspects of English are an integral part of the curriculum, emphasis is being placed on the importance of cross-curricular reading and writing. We hope to ensure that the standards of Writing and the skills taught in the English lesson are transferred into other subjects; this will show consolidation of skills and a deeper understanding of how and when to use specific grammar, punctuation and grammar objectives.

We hope that as children move on from Christ Church to further their education and learning, that their creativity, passion for English and high aspirations travel with them and continue to grow and develop as they do.

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