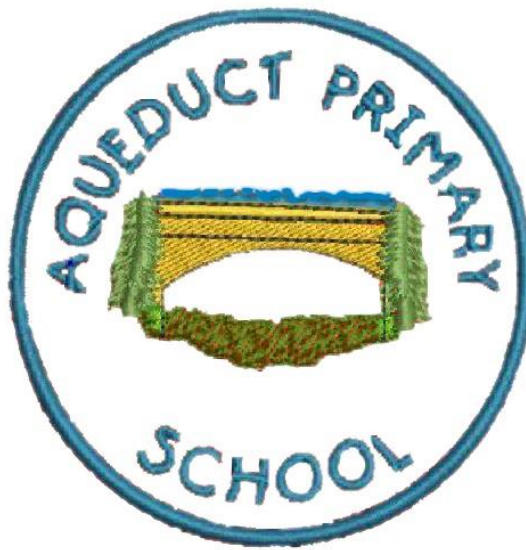


Aqueduct Primary School

# English Policy



Written/Reviewed	May 2023
Next Review Date	October 2024

#### Our Strapline

*Building tomorrow, Leading the way ...*

#### Our Values

Positivity, happiness, learning, kindness, safety and respect.



## **Our Values**

Positivity, happiness, learning, kindness, safety and respect.

**At Aqueduct Primary School we recognise the significance of raising standards in English across both Key Stages.**

### **Rationale for the policy**

English is a core subject of the curriculum and is central to the wider curriculum and fundamental to every child's learning both at school and in the world beyond. Children need to develop their use of language in order to learn and to play a full and active role as individuals in society. It is central as a medium of thought, learning and expression across the curriculum and as a subject in its own right.

### **Purpose of the policy**

To offer guidance to staff, parents and governors on the role of English from the Early Years to the end of Key Stage Two.

To ensure English is given a high priority in the school and that it is taught daily in every class using the guidance from the Primary National Curriculum.

### **English across the curriculum**

As a school we recognise that English skills should be regularly applied in every subject area and that, where appropriate, English teaching should be linked to work in other areas of the curriculum. The teaching of English, through access to quality texts is an important part of how we plan and teach English. This is taken into account through medium and short term planning where links with other subjects are made evident.

### **Aims**

In line with the framework for English, Spoken Language, Reading, Writing and Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation are equally represented within the effective teaching of English across the school.

### **Guidance for Spoken Language**

*Our aim is to help children:*

- To value the language they bring with them; the language of their families, community and culture.
- To be able to express themselves in an effective and appropriate manner to a wide range of audiences and for a wide range of purposes
- To confidently and accurately use standard English (grammatically correct)
- To be able to use spoken language to support and extend their learning across the curriculum.
- To be able to listen to others attentively with an increasing capacity to understand more complex information and ideas.
- To be able to offer and exchange ideas in both formal and informal discussion.
- To be able to express clearly their own ideas to others in a manner which allows for an exchange of opinions and viewpoints.

### **Guidance on Reading Intent**

*Our aim is that all children should:*

- Be able to read fluently with understanding, expression and confidence.
- Be able to read in ways which supports and extends learning across the curriculum.

- See reading as enjoyable, rewarding and worthwhile.
- Be aware of the wide range of reading materials that have been inherited from their own and other cultures.
- Be able to access a wide range of materials for different purposes.
- **Become critical readers by:**
- Be increasingly able to see how texts create effects and meanings.
- Be able to place their own ideas, experiences and values.
- use text to support their opinions.

Pupils become successful readers by learning to use a range of strategies to understand the meaning of the text. Successful readers use as many of these strategies as possible (phonic, grammatical, word recognition, graphic and contextual knowledge) within reading.

In line with the English framework, a wide range of texts including those on paper and screen are used to develop the breadth of reading materials experienced by the children. At Aqueduct Primary, our writing is linked heavily with quality, age appropriate texts, which where appropriate link to other subjects.

### **Guidance on Reading Implementation**

Reading skills are developed through all areas of the curriculum with explicit references being made to shared and guided sessions to enable pupils to connect the learning.

Reading is organised in the following way:

- Every class from has a daily guided session of 30 minutes
- Every child will read aloud to an adult at least twice a week
- Pupils in the bottom 20% attainment in reading will read at least three times a week to an adult
- Every child will take a book home to read. Where appropriate the teacher will select the book according to the pupil's stage of reading. These books may be taken from the school's reading scheme
- In addition to a reading scheme book, children can select a book that they would like to take home

The school encourages children to read at least three times a week at home and complete a parent/carer comment in their reading record. Those who meet this expectation, will be rewarded with an extra break time each week, alongside ERIC time. Each pupil will be awarded a sticker for their personal bookmark, each time they read at home. When the pupil has completed filling up their bookmark with stickers, they will receive a new book of their choice, given to them by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. They will also be awarded a leaf to add to the Reading Tree on display in the school hall.

A Teaching Assistant will complete the reading record during weekly guided reading sessions (these will have an age-related target) and independent reading sessions.

### **Guided reading**

Daily guided reading activities take place for all children in all ability groups for either the whole class or each teacher-led group. Daily Guided Reading sessions take place from Year 1 to Year 6.

Reception pupils begin Guided Reading sessions in the summer term. Prior to this, the children in reception do a variety of activities that are based around a class book and theme. All of these activities are aimed to promote the love of storytelling.

Whole class reading material in KS2 is chosen to ensure that all children are reading age related expectation texts and also ensuring that they are suitably challenged.

In KS1, individual group reading material is chosen to ensure that children can access phonetically decodable books at their level but again, ensuring that children are challenged and make progress.

### KS1 and KS2 Guided Reading sessions:

Modelled Teach (Monday). Each weekly reading target is taught and modelled at the beginning of each week.

The mnemonic word VIPERS is used to help children remember the key types of reading questions. V= Vocabulary, I=Inference, P=Predict E= Explain, R = Retrieve, S= Sequence (KS1) and Summarise (KS2).

Modelled Teach is followed by a four-day carousel of activities, these include:

- Class teacher led group, where CT further supports the children to develop their understanding of the reading skill being taught that week.
- TA group, where the TA reads one to one with each pupil in the group and focusses on an age-related reading target (TA to comment in Reading Record)
- Follow up Task (linked to the teacher led task from the previous session, *success criteria and marking expected*)
- Reading Task (linked to an additional age-related reading target *success criteria and marking expected*)

Guided sessions focus on word recognition and reading comprehension with both elements explicitly taught and modelled using guidance and resources from the English curriculum to support.

A daily phonics session takes place in the Early Years, Year One and Year Two, following the Read, Write Inc materials. (**ref Phonic Policy**). Although it is anticipated that all children will have completed the programme by the time they leave Year Two, some children will still require additional phonic teaching.

### **Reading Assessment**

Reading is assessed termly using PIRA reading tests and teacher assessments based on evidence from the guided reading session to indicate attainment and inform next steps.

A Read, Write inc phonics assessment is administered in Key Stage 1 and Reception each half term. In-between this, teachers are encouraged to inform the Reading Lead of any pupils they feel need assessing. This is then used to help organise reading groups and track progression over a year (**See Phonic Policy**).

### **The Enjoyment of Reading and Story Telling**

Pupils will be given opportunities to read for pleasure and enjoyment. Each week every class will have ERIC time (Everyone Reading In Class) when the children will be allowed to read a text of their choice.

There will be at least one opportunity a day when the whole class listen to a story, this will be a selected class book. In addition to reading the book, the class will discuss any relevant information linked to the understanding of the story. Each Friday class teachers use this reading time to share a poem with their class.

## **WRITING AT AQUEDUCT PRIMARY**

### **Guidance on Writing Intent**

*Our aim is that all children should:*

- Develop a confident and reflective approach to writing.
- Create texts based on their existing knowledge and understanding of spoken language and the writing system
- Write with growing confidence and precision in a widening variety of forms for different purposes.
- Discuss and evaluate their writing range.
- Apply their understanding of purpose, form and structure of different types of writing in their own work.
- Use writing to consolidate and develop thinking.
- Develop an independent approach to spelling and to word acquisition.
- Use punctuation appropriately.
- Develop a legible and fluent style of writing.
- Learn and use cursive handwriting

All children are given opportunities to experiment with their independent writing. Each year group will have opportunities to develop their skills in a range of contexts, thus ensuring that they receive a balance of opportunity to write in different genres including narrative, non-narrative and poetry.

### **Assessment of Implementation and Impact on Writing**

At Aqueduct Primary School we believe that assessment is ongoing and is conducted informally on a day to day basis. This information is then used to identify the next writing targets and these become central to the teachers lesson plans to ensure children make progress.

All pupils will have opportunities to complete an extended piece of writing independently. There is an expectation, that this will take place at least once every two weeks according to how a unit of writing develops. This will be known as a Golden Write. Pupils will be given a 'next step' target that is age appropriate that will be expected to be evident in their next Golden Write.

All teachers will be given time to moderate, within their teams, across phases and where possible with other schools. This will take place in Phase or staff meeting time, at least once a term.

### **Teaching Implementation**

The teaching of English will usually take the form of a daily English lesson that will be in line with the age, stage of development and ability of the children being taught.

The 'Genre Progression' document will be used when planning Units of learning within writing. This will ensure there is a build-up of skills across the year groups. It will also ensure there is a consistent approach to the features, language and key skills shared by all.

### **Marking**

Children's work should be marked daily. We believe that 'live marking' is most effective and all staff are trained to do this effectively. It should be positive, constructive and informative to the child. It should relate to the lesson intention and success criteria and make the next learning steps clear. A range of marking is used weekly, including Closing the Gap, extension and next steps. (**ref marking policy**)

### **Spelling**

Spelling will be taught in accordance with the English curriculum with an emphasis on the teaching of phonics e.g. Read Write Inc Strategies, conventions, rules and vocabulary From Year 2 (when appropriate for the cohort) to Year 6 classes will have spelling sessions at least 3 x a week using the Read Write Inc 'Get Spelling' Programme. In both key stages, children will undertake termly spelling tests to assess their spelling age. The test will be used to identify common errors and graphemes needing support and consolidation. Throughout the school the children will use word banks, dictionaries, and thesauruses. Children are encouraged to attempt spelling by themselves, using the spelling charts available in each classroom and to self-check their own writing in order to help them develop self-reliance and continuity of thought. They may also proof-read writing with a partner to identify mistakes. (We recognise and make links between handwriting patterns and spelling patterns and these will often be taught together.)

### **Early Years**

Children get full access to all requirements for their year group through work in whole class and teacher led activities.

Foundation guidance provides a steer for ensuring that the youngest children engage in appropriate activities. They include well planned purposeful activities which provide a rich context for learning. We consider that enjoyment and experimentation are key features of a successful learning and plan a balance of adult-led, adult-directed and child-led activities. We plan a designated time for language and English with opportunities for whole class, guided, group and individual work.

At Aqueduct Primary School we value greatly the contribution that speaking and listening makes to English and indeed the wider curriculum. Speaking and listening activities, therefore, form a large part of our early years' English teaching with many activities being planned for separately and in addition to the English session.

### **Handwriting and Presentation (See Handwriting Policy)**

Pupils should be taught presentational skills, which include legible handwriting using appropriate skills. The English curriculum states that pupils need to understand from an early age that much of their writing will be read by other people and therefore needs to be accurate, legible and set out in an appropriate way.

They need to see the writing process being 'modelled' by the teacher. Handwriting activities should be regularly carried out with the class as a whole or with smaller guided groups as needed.

#### **English books presentation:**

- Write the full date next to the left-hand margin
- Miss a line
- Stick Success Criteria next to margin.
- Miss a line out between paragraphs
- If a mistake is made cross out in pencil with a ruler

Children to write in pen when their handwriting is fluently joined, letter formation is accurate and of an appropriate size. - this is encouraged from Year 1.

#### **Guidance on Grammar and Punctuation**

Good grammar is central to good quality writing. Children will be taught to express their ideas in as clear and direct way as possible and so the explicit teaching of grammar should work alongside a rich and stimulating English writing curriculum.

Please refer to the progression documents (available on the school website [aqueductprimary.co.uk/our-curriculum/english-progression/](http://aqueductprimary.co.uk/our-curriculum/english-progression/)):

Grammar Progression

Writing Progression

Punctuation Progression

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **Role of the subject leader:**

- To ensure that the policy is implemented consistently across the school.
- To support colleagues in the development of detailed planning that takes account of the units of work and objectives outlined in the primary framework.
- To identify areas for further staff development and to ensure that staff have access to opportunities to address these.
- To support colleagues with record keeping and assessment in English.
- To monitor progress and evaluate assessment to advise the senior leadership team on action needed to address specific issues.
- To monitor the delivery of the primary framework within school.
- To monitor medium and short-term planning.
- To keep up to date with developments in the subject area and disseminate information to colleagues as appropriate.
- To take responsibility for the purchase and organisation of English resources.
- To attend Subject leader updates and courses for the enrichment and development of raising standards in English within the school

#### **Role of the teacher:**

To ensure:

- That the teaching of English secures the best learning for all children and provides opportunity and challenge.
- That an emphasis is placed on carefully planned, purposeful and well directed teaching and learning and learning takes into account any assessments.
- Marking is completed in line with the school marking policy to move learning forward.
- That the learning environment is stimulating, supports learning and celebrates children's achievement using working walls.

### **Role of the Governing Body**

To ensure that they are kept fully informed by the head teacher and senior leadership team regarding the current state and future development of English. All governors are linked to different subjects and undertake monitoring activities which are related to the English Action Plan and School Development Plan. (Learning walks, talking to children, looking at children's work)

### **Role of Parents**

Parents are important partners in the process of developing children's language skills. Therefore, parents are encouraged to play a full part in their children's education by:

- Supporting their child with home reading.
- Supporting their child with home experience tasks.
- Offering a useful audience for children in their development of speaking and listening, reading and writing.

### **Planning**

The school scheme of work and medium-term planning is based on the Early Years Foundation Stage objectives and objectives and units from the English framework.

### **Essential elements for effective short-term planning should include:**

Age appropriate objectives (including spoken language)

Teaching related to prior learning.

Differentiation/Adaptations to learning.

High order questioning.

Teaching strategies:

Success Criteria

### **Adapting Learning**

Adapting Learning can be achieved through:

- Modification of resources
- Modified success criteria
- Questioning
- Extension and open-ended tasks
- Level of support: scaffolding and prompts, TA/ other adult/ peer support.
- Target setting
- Expectation
- By outcome

### **Deployment of other adults**

Access to English planning should be openly shared with additional adults working in the classroom. The system to ensure this takes place is that it is the teacher's responsibility to ensure all TAs attend each morning team meeting, when teachers will share the intended outcome for learning, for each class, group or where necessary, individual.

Regular opportunities are created to share pupil progress through meetings. All adults in school are informed and updated on new initiatives in English and supported in their professional development.

### **Intervention programmes**

When necessary, children are carefully selected through teacher assessment to take part in intervention programmes (e.g. Covid Catch-up, pre-teaching, post teaching or precision teaching to address a specific need). These sessions will take place outside the English session for half a term. Assessment should be carried out before and after the intervention to measure effectiveness, impact and inform next steps.

### **Equal opportunities, inclusion and SEND**

As a school we are committed to the premise that every child, irrespective of race, gender or ability is entitled to a broad and balanced curriculum and that the curriculum we teach should reflect the diversity of the society in which we live.

Activities are suitably differentiated and challenging to allow all pupils (including less able, more able and gifted children, EAL) of all ages and abilities full access to the English curriculum.

(ref Equal Opportunities, Inclusion and SEND policies)

### **Safeguarding**

Aqueduct School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This means that we have a Child Protection Policy and procedures in place which we refer to in our prospectus. All staff (including supply staff, volunteers and governors) must ensure that they are aware of these procedures. Families are welcome to read the Policy on the school website.

<b><u>Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL)</u></b>	
<u>Louise Aubrey</u>	<u>Safeguarding linked Governor</u> <u>(Chair of Governors)</u>
<u>Tammy Lockley</u>	<u>Supervising DSL</u>
<u>Jo Clarke</u>	<u>Lead DSL (DHT)</u>
<u>Ash Palin</u>	<u>Deputy DSL (Assistant Head)</u>
<u>Cara Duppa</u>	<u>Deputy DSL (EYFS Lead)</u>
<u>Lisa Batchelor</u>	<u>Deputy DSL (Inclusion Support Manager)</u>