



English

How this subject is taught

In our inclusive, Christian school, where everyone matters, we nurture and develop opportunities for lifelong learning. We come together in a caring community that develops our spiritual and cultural lives through our school values ensuring that everyone successfully achieves their full potential.

St Bartholomew's follows the Lancashire Unit plans for English which fully cover the requirements of the National Curriculum for English (2014). In each half term children will experience a range of writing opportunities, including stories, diaries, letters, non-fiction texts and poetry all wrapped up in a theme. Emphasis is placed on speaking and listening skills to enable children to communicate across a range of contexts and audiences. Grammar, punctuation and spelling is taught in all year groups at the appropriate level. We use 'Jolly Phonics' and 'Letters and Sounds' to teach our children phonics. It is taught daily in the Foundation Stage and in Key Stage 1. Once these children are secure they are able to move on to the Spelling programme 'No Nonsense Spelling' that is taught from year 2 onwards. Pre cursive handwriting is taught from Reception through to Year 2 when children start to join their letters. These writing skills will be developed year on year with the aim that children will be able to join their letters and produce neat legible handwriting.

Reading is an important part of the English curriculum in our School. Home reading books are organised on a banding system ensuring the children read books appropriate to their level. Our reading scheme is mainly based around Oxford Reading Tree with other book schemes to supplement these. These books will be provided and sent home on a daily basis for parents to read with their children. Children who have moved on from the reading scheme have access to the class book selection and our free reader books.

As part of the English Curriculum each child across Key Stage 1 and 2 will take part in at least one whole class guided reading session each week outside of the English lesson. This will be led by the class teacher allowing the children to develop their reading and comprehension skills. Individual or small group reading will take place regularly for children who still need support to develop phonological skills or to further develop confidence in reading.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception)

children are given opportunities to:

- speak, listen and represent ideas in their activities;
- use communication, language and Literacy in every part of the curriculum;
- listen to and read a range of texts;
- become immersed in an environment rich in print and possibilities for communication, where mark making opportunities are widely available.

At Key Stage One (Years 1 and 2),

Children learn to speak confidently to a variety of audiences and listen to what others have to say. They should use language to explore their own experiences and imaginary worlds. They should develop a love of reading and writing and begin to read and write independently and with confidence.

At Key Stage Two (Years 3-6),

Children learn to change the way they speak and write to suit different purposes and audiences. They read a range of texts and respond to different layers of meaning in them. They have the opportunity to explore the use of language in literary and non-literary texts and learn how the structure of language works.



How this subject is assessed

Work is assessed in line with the Assessment Policy. Progress and attainment is recorded and tracked using Target Tracker. Pupil progress meetings are held half termly and assessments will be entered at the end of each half term (steps) with progress highlighted on a continuous basis (statements).

The statutory tests will be taken at the end of Key Stage 1 and 2 and in EYFS assessments are carried out in September and July to monitor progress made.

At the end of Year 1 the children sit the Phonics Screening check and those who do not pass re-sit the check at the end of Year 2.

Recent Developments

We have recently purchased class sets of whole class novels to be used in our whole class guided reading sessions. This ensures children have access to relevant, inspiring texts with the intention of helping our children to foster a life-long love of reading.

Priorities for Future Development

- to introduce a new handwriting scheme throughout school.
- to develop some of the approaches of 'Talk for Writing'.
- to develop the teaching at the 'creative and gathering content' stage of our writing process.