

English Policy



Pendragon Community Primary School

Lead person: Subject Lead – S Taylor and C Buck

Reviewed: May 2022

Ratified by Governors: 17 May 2022

Next Review Due: Autumn 2023

English policy

Intent

At Pendragon Primary School, the curriculum is carefully sequenced to ensure that knowledge and skills in all subjects are acquired, retained and built on, year upon year. It is designed to provide first hand learning experiences and to allow the children to develop interpersonal skills, build resilience, be creative and to be critical thinkers. Our curriculum embraces the community in which it is situated, recognising local history, heritage, geographical and business links and most importantly, the aspirations of all our children.

Page 13 of the National Curriculum 2014 sets out the 'Purpose of study' and the following aims relating to English:

- 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

Our curriculum in Early Years ensures children learn through rich, practical opportunities linked to all seven aspects of the framework and are underpinned by the three effective characteristics of teaching and learning.

Throughout the teaching of English we also endeavour to meet the overarching aims of the school. (REACH).

- See also, Reading for Pleasure Policy, Phonics and Spelling Subject Policy & Guidance and Handwriting summary.

Implementation

- The National Curriculum 2014 sets out the core content to be delivered through the teaching of English.
- The curriculum is organised around 6 Big Questions and threshold concepts – the big ideas in each subject. The 6 Big Questions foster an investigative approach to learning, embracing active learning and problem-solving. The

threshold concepts come up time and time again in many topics and help the children to assimilate new information into growing schema.

- Pendragon Primary School's long term curriculum plan for English gives an overview of English coverage from Early Years to Year 6. Teachers use this as the basis for medium and short term planning.
- We endeavour to ensure learning in English is an engaging, creative and meaningful experience for all children. Links are made between subjects; and enrichment activities, such as trips, visitors, special days and weeks are regularly planned as part of our cultural guarantee.
- Discrete English lessons are taught daily. In Early Years and KS1 phonics sessions take place daily, differentiated according to need. In KS2, children take part in two/three sessions a week to develop spelling, also differentiated according to need. Some children receive additional phonics/spelling sessions. Handwriting and guided reading sessions take place throughout the week.
- The application of skills and knowledge learned in one subject to a new context or a different subject is encouraged.

Impact

Through well thought out curriculum design, our pupils acquire a deep body of learning over time. Opportunities to make interconnected links to prior learning and regular retrieval practice enable them to build up a bank of skills and knowledge and showcase their understanding. The impact of the curriculum is evident in the curriculum products that the children produce. These products not only showcase their learning but provide opportunities to apply that learning in more complex or abstract contexts.

Equal opportunities and Inclusion

See Pendragon Primary's Equality statement in our school brochure

Assessment, Record keeping and reporting

- See Pendragon Primary's assessment policy

Monitoring and evaluation

- The English subject leader, under supervision of the governors, headteacher and curriculum lead (SLT), is responsible for ongoing monitoring and evaluation in order to ensure high standards and improved outcomes across the subject.
- A subject action plan is shared and reviewed annually.

