



St Martin's School

Headteacher: Mrs K. Bartlett

Chair of Governors: Mrs L Chorley

English Intent Statement

Our vision at St Martin's is for children to feel happy and safe, and become lifelong learners, who know they can make God's world a better place.

At St Martin's, we believe that a quality English curriculum should help widen our children's pathways into the world and develop their love for reading, writing and discussion. We want to nurture their curious minds and teach them to critically analyse and evaluate what they read; this will enable them to be active learners and voice their own thoughts and responses to the topics we cover in school, as well as the themes and issues they may come across as global citizens. We know that an engaging text driver can enhance their learning and inspire writing they can be proud of and give them opportunities to write across a range of genres. Powerful reading literature can drive our awareness of diversity and create cultural awareness, fostering good reading habits to promote a high-level of vocabulary and language.

We hope to make lifelong readers that have a love for books, by giving our children the necessary phonics skills that develop competent readers and accurate spellers. From the beginning of our children's learning journey, we provide a daily phonics curriculum to give them the essential skills of acquiring letter sounds, segmenting and blending ready to access a wide variety of texts and give them the confidence to begin their writing journey.

We aim for our children to write creatively, but to regard the purpose and audience of their writing highly to produce meaningful text. Most importantly, we want our children to enjoy the art of writing and feel confident during the writing process. We encourage the use of drama, discussion and communication to inspire the children's writing ideas and our focus on English grammar, punctuation and spelling knowledge equips the children with the tools to write accurately and with grammatical awareness. We set high expectations for all our children to take pride in their work and have a legible, cursive handwriting style that increases in fluency and speed. Our spelling, EGPS and handwriting long-term plans follow a clear pathway of progression as they advance through the primary curriculum.

Our learning journeys in English ensure that children are self-reflective of their work and we aim to make our children independent in their skills of proof-reading, editing and improving. Clear success criteria ensure the children know what is expected in their writing, but personalised 'next steps' are worked on to ensure that each child's individual learning needs are progressive.

At St Martin's, we aim to link our English curriculum to our school values:

Respect - throughout English, we strive for the children to become tolerant and respectful of all that our world has to offer using literature, themes and discussion topics to celebrate diversity and give children a knowledge of cultures that exist beyond their cultural boundaries.

Friendship - we encourage children to work in pairs and groups wherever possible. Tackling challenges together often gives all not only a sense of achievement but also a sense of partnership and comradery. Practical tasks like roleplay, presentations and acting help forge friendships with peers that would not otherwise come together. The children of St Martin's understand that working relationships and friend relationships overlap and are as important as one another.

Courage - wherever possible we try to engage the children in new and exciting ways, enabling them to try something new through English, be it acting out a scene from a story or taking on the role of a news reporter. Giving the children courage to express their ideas and opinions in a variety of ways is paramount throughout the English curriculum. We aim for the children to be courageous with using adventurous vocabulary in their writing to critically evaluating texts by various authors.

Creativity - enabling the children with all the relevant reading and writing skills is a key part to the English curriculum but is only a part of what we focus on at St Martin's. Lessons are designed to give every child the confidence and freedom to be as creative as they can. Through diverse and engaging lessons to fun and exciting tasks, the children are encouraged to be imaginative and original and in turn, this develops natural readers and writers and ensures the best environment for children to blossom and reach their true potential.