



“Where responsible, respectful, caring and resilient children and adults strive to be the best versions of themselves.”

Responsibility

Respect

Care

Resilience

English

Intent

At Wherwell, we strive to deliver an exciting and engaging English curriculum which provides all children with the key literacy skills they will need, whilst enabling creativity and progression across the year groups. We attach great importance to enabling all children to develop into fluent and confident readers, who love books. Staff sharing and being enthused about books has helped us to create a culture of reading for pleasure across the school. Learning to read is one of the most important life skills a child needs to achieve not only at school but in later life, so we are passionate about making sure that every single child learns to read fluently, whilst also enjoying the stories, poems, information books that we have built into our curriculum.

Our writing curriculum is enhanced, through the use of quality texts that have been carefully chosen. Teachers select texts in order to ensure a diversity of genre, form, author and heritage. Learning journeys offer opportunities for children to develop skills as communicators, readers and writers and culminates in outcomes that cover a range of purposes, audiences and forms. The texts have been selected due to their relevance to our curriculum and also to the children's interests. At Wherwell, we recognise the importance of nurturing a culture where children take pride in their writing and our expectation is that all written work across the whole curriculum is of a high standard. Our English lessons not only promote a love of reading and writing but also aim to develop the children's imagination and creativity. We use high quality modelled examples to promote the correct use of spelling, punctuation and grammar, in order that the children have a clear idea of how these elements can impact their writing. We endeavour to inspire the children to be confident in the art of speaking and listening and to use discussion to communicate and further their learning. Careful consideration is given to how all lessons build towards a piece of writing which showcases the children's acquired knowledge, skills and understanding.

Implementation

Wherwell Primary School our English curriculum is based upon the National Curriculum requirements, which supports the teaching and enables the children to build on prior learning as they move through the year groups. We provide children with a wide range of high-quality reading material in our well stocked school library and in every classroom. We attach great importance to promoting these both within and outside English lessons. In pursuit of our aim to get all children reading by the time they leave Wherwell, we have a team of listeners who endeavour to help build up the 'reading miles' for each child.

At Wherwell School our children are provided with many opportunities to develop and apply their writing skills across the curriculum whilst retaining the integrity of the non core subjects. We encourage the children to plan, revise and evaluate their writing. To do this effectively we focus on audience, purpose and context and a wide knowledge of both vocabulary and grammar.

Increasing children's vocabulary is of paramount importance at Wherwell, whereby tier three words (domain specific academic vocabulary) are displayed in classrooms and explored, giving the children an opportunity to apply these in their own creative writing. Tier two words (those found in many content texts) are also discussed in other curriculum areas in order to broaden the children's understanding of a subject, as well as their overall vocabulary. Spelling patterns are taught regularly and the children are given opportunities to focus on applying these rules in their independent writing. A major intent of our spelling curriculum is enabling the children to focus on ways of learning to spell tricky words. Children are also taught to spell the statutory words, as outlined in the National Curriculum.

Impact

Children talk with enthusiasm about texts that we have shared in school across the curriculum. They understand the importance of reading and know the opportunities that being a strong reader opens up. They are supported in the development of their early reading skills and move on to be proficient readers. They can discuss texts across a range of genres and understand how texts are structured and language is chosen to fit a given purpose.

Our children understand how we can use the writing of others to improve our own writing skills. They build a sound knowledge of spelling, grammar and punctuation; genre-based conventions; a broad and rich vocabulary and an understanding of writing style. They are able to produce innovative and novel pieces of writing which show their skills and understanding of 'purpose' and 'audience'.

Our children are confident communicators. They are able to express themselves articulately in spoken language and can listen to others.

At Wherwell, we want all children to leave our school reading and writing with confidence, fluency and understanding, using a range of independent strategies. Reading and writing are complex skills, but our curriculum will enable the children to develop their resilience and in so doing, they will be able to take responsibility for their learning. Our aim throughout the English Learning Journey is for children to leave Wherwell as thoughtful, reflective, articulate individuals who are able to

communicate their opinions, their ideas and their emotions in a wide range of spoken and written ways. They will have developed an understanding of the importance of reading both to acquire knowledge and for enjoyment.