

ENGLISH CURRICULUM

‘Fluent, confident and highly capable writers – and avid readers for whom books are a joy’

At Clifton we recognize that being able to speak, listen, read and write purposefully and clearly is essential in the 21st Century. Without these skills the children will not be prepared for the challenges that lie ahead. Our aim is that every child who leaves us is able to communicate effectively and has a greater understanding of the world and opportunities that surround them.

A large part of every school week is spent on English skills and any child that is falling behind or needs further challenge may access increased support throughout their educational journey at Clifton.

We seek to ensure that English is brought to life whenever possible. We use ICT to fire the children’s imagination and seek to take them on visits to the theatre and high school productions. By the time the children leave us our aim is to ensure that they have all had the chance to speak/perform to a variety of audiences.

We work closely with parents in an attempt to ensure that children are supported at home and school. We expect children to read to an adult at home on 5+ occasions per week and to take home and bring their reading books to school every day. Children are also provided with weekly spellings to learn.

To get the most out of school, your child needs to be capable of four basic skills – speaking, listening, reading and writing. This is what their English lessons are all about. These are where they learn how to express themselves clearly and creatively. They listen to and read stories and poems from all over the world, explore their imagination and read to find out facts.

We aim to enable the children to communicate with others effectively, to express themselves creatively and imaginatively, and to become enthusiastic and critical readers. Whilst English skills are cross-curricular, focused teaching of the subject takes place each day. The children engage in some form of reading activity at this time. This may be individual, shared (whole class) or guided (group) tasks.

Our children also learn skills of writing. We aim to produce enthusiastic confident and independent writers and give the children opportunities to write for a variety of audiences and purposes from the earliest stages. We use a selection of published materials in our teaching, including ‘Read Write Inc.’ which also supports children’s grasp of phonics.

Children are actively encouraged to take home reading materials, as we aim to work in close partnership with parents.

OUR PUPILS ARE TAUGHT TO...

Speaking and listening: the children engage in a wide range of different contexts and purposes for speaking and listening. They are encouraged to think about what they say, choose the right words, listen to others before they speak, talk with others and share ideas. They take different roles in drama, tell stories, read aloud, and describe events and experiences

Reading: The children focus on words and sentences and how they fit into whole texts. Children work out the meaning of what they read and say why they like it or why they don’t. They read stories, plays, poems, information texts in print and on computer screens, and use dictionaries and encyclopaedias

Writing: the children write for a range of purposes both on paper and on screen:

They compose stories, poems, notes, lists, captions, records, letters, messages and instructions. They learn how to use punctuation to show the meaning of sentences, practice clear handwriting, and discover that thinking about patterns of letters and sounds helps them to spell correctly

Schemes

All children from Early years to Year 2 (end of infant education) work is based around Read Write Inc (RWi) which supports the children with phonics and decoding of words.

All children, irrespective of age, use different schemes of to support reading and have access to a fully stocked, inviting and modern library within school.

Children who have difficulty with reading/phonics (irrespective of age) will receive specific support using materials such as Planet X

Assessment

All areas of the English curriculum are regularly assessed and staff meet to discuss individual children's progress at least half termly. Children in Year 2 and 6 are assessed against National Curriculum levels; Early years (Reception and Nursery) are assessed against the Early years curriculum.

Years 1, 3, 4 and 5 are assessed against Age Related Expectations (A.R.E). Children's progress and attainment are reported to parents via twice yearly parents evening and in the end of year report. On receiving the report parents/carers have the chance to discuss their child's progress with the class teacher.