



English Curriculum Statement of Intent

Purpose – Why is this subject important?

At Great Whelnetham, we believe that the teaching of English is fundamental to everything we do. We want our children to develop a lifelong love of reading and writing and that all pupils should be able to confidently communicate their knowledge, ideas and emotions, both verbally and through their writing.

English lessons take place daily in every class in the school and opportunities are frequently provided for children to develop their oracy, reading and writing across the scope of the curriculum. Our goal is for children to develop into confident speakers, thoughtful and reflective listeners, enthusiastic readers and engaging writers. To this end, we enjoy taking part in festivals and events such as the Suffolk Character Creations Competition where many of our children's work were shortlisted or won prizes.

Principles – What are the distinctive ways of knowing, working and learning in this subject?

Our approach to teaching reading at Whelnetham is based on developing the full range of skills involved in this complex process. Children are encouraged to develop a love of books and are given many opportunities to listen to stories, to share books with each other and to choose fiction and non-fiction. On starting school, they are encouraged to take books home to read and talk about with their parents and a dialogue is started between school and home in the form of their reading record. We use a teaching approach based on systematic synthetic phonics as set out in the Phonics bug phonics scheme. It is structured and tailored to the needs of each individual right up until the end of Key Stage 1.

Teachers are part of the reading and writing experience, modelling handwritten example texts, sharing, guiding and editing writing together and reading aloud a class novel for all our enjoyment. Opportunities for drama, partner & group work are prevalent throughout the English curriculum and are an invaluable tool to help teach our pupils to speak clearly, to convey their ideas fluently and confidently and to ask questions.

Our pupils are actively encouraged to develop as confident, engaging and creative writers. We believe it is important that children see their work as having purpose and that they regard themselves as authors. Opportunities are provided for pupils to develop the skills required for writing for a wide range of different purposes and audiences.

We believe that all good writers refine and edit their writing over time, so we want children to develop independence in being able to identify their own areas for improvement in all pieces of writing, editing their work effectively during and after the writing process. We want to produce children who write with confidence and accuracy for a variety of purposes and audiences whilst developing their own individual flair.

All pupils are encouraged to take pride in the presentation of their writing, in part by developing a good, joined, handwriting style by the time they move to secondary school. This is throughout their learning not only when implementing the publishing process.



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Expectations – What does success look like?

We do not put ceilings on what pupils can achieve in English and we do not hold pre-conceptions about any pupils' ability to make progress. We understand the importance of parents and carers in supporting their children to develop both grammar, spelling and composition skills, and so we want to encourage a home-school partnership which enables parents and carers to understand how to enhance the skills being taught in school. Our curriculum closely follows the following aims:

- 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.

These aims are embedded across our English lessons and the wider curriculum.

English opens the doors for children to learn and succeed in many other curriculum areas and being able to read, write, speak and listen provides our children with a sense of fulfilment which impacts on their wellbeing in a positive way.