

English Intention

At Buckingham Primary Academy, the foundations for teaching the National Curriculum English are begun in Early Years Foundation Stage, with the development of a high quality activities planned within Communication, Language and Literacy.

The teaching of English at KS1 and 2 is underpinned by the expectations and programme of study set out by the DfE's National Curriculum (2014):

Purpose of study

A high-quality education in English will teach pupils to speak and write fluently so that they can communicate their ideas and emotions to others, and through their reading and listening, others can communicate with them. Through reading in particular, pupils have a chance to develop culturally, emotionally, intellectually, socially and spiritually. Literature, especially, plays a key role in such development. Reading also enables pupils both to acquire knowledge and to build on what they already know. All the skills of language are essential to participating fully as a member of society.

Aims

The overarching aim for English in the national curriculum is to promote high standards of language and literacy by equipping pupils with a strong command of the spoken and written language, and to develop their love of literature through widespread reading for enjoyment.

The National Curriculum for English aims to ensure that all pupils:

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

School curriculum

The programmes of study for English are set out year-by-year for key stage 1 and two-yearly for key stage 2. The use of the 4 purposes of writing allow children to build on previous skills and revisit genres across their school life. The Power of Reading approach emphasises the importance of books and literature in enabling children to become confident, happy and enthusiastic readers and writers, with all the benefits this brings. The Power of Reading project is underpinned and based on extensive research and experience. It has been delivered nationally and internationally for over a decade.

As a Power of Reading school, we put quality children's literature at the heart of learning, and we are developing a whole school culture of reading for pleasure. We use drama, role play and the arts to engage children in books and to help them to delve deeper into the content in order to develop a greater understanding of the characters and storylines. Through this approach, our pupils are better able to develop their higher order reading skills.