



**DARWEN
ST JAMES**

English



**Nurturing ambition
through a living faith
in English at Darwen
St James' is...**



Nurture

We foster a warm, inclusive environment where children build confidence in their communication. Through daily story times, scaffolded language modelling, and rich home-reading reward systems, every pupil—regardless of background or SEND—feels supported to discover a lifelong love for reading and writing.

Ambition

We hold high aspirations for all our children, striving to raise attainment and build pride in their work. By embedding the structured Literacy Counts frameworks (*Ready Steady Write*, *Read*, and *Spell*), we provide the explicit scaffolding, vocabulary, and grammatical precision needed to help pupils unlock their potential, develop individual flair, and make strong progress in writing.

Faith

Rooted in our Christian ethos, pupils explore diverse texts, poetry, and narratives that encourage reflection, empathy, and moral growth. We use literature to reflect our school values and inspire a living faith through deep engagement with meaningful stories.

Citizens

English provides the essential foundation for pupils to participate fully as active members of society. By mastering spoken language, fluent reading, and persuasive writing, our pupils articulate their opinions confidently, listen respectfully, and contribute meaningfully to the wider world.

Curriculum Intent, Implementation & Impact Statement



Intent

At Darwen St James', we believe a high-quality English curriculum develops a passion for reading, writing, and spoken communication. Our intent is to:

- Enable all children to read fluently, accurately, and with deep comprehension appropriate to their reading age.
- Cultivate a habit of reading widely and often, both for pleasure and information.
- Develop confident writers who can compose clear, accurate, and coherent pieces using strong grammatical skills and personal flair.
- Maintain high expectations for handwriting and presentation across all subjects.
- Provide a robust literacy foundation that equips every child to participate fully in modern society.

Implementation

Our curriculum delivery relies on systematic, high-quality schemes and daily practice:

- **Reading:** Delivered through *Ready Steady Read* alongside daily 30-minute guided reading sessions focusing on explicit reading strategies and content domains. We maintain daily whole-class story time, timetabled library sessions, and a comprehensive home reading scheme linked to Phonics Bug in EYFS/KS1.
- **Writing:** Delivered through *Ready Steady Write* (Literacy Counts). This scaffolded approach uses high-quality vehicle texts to model grammar in context through continuous cycles of immersion, analysing, generating content, and writing. Presentation and handwriting are taught four times weekly using Letter-join.
- **Phonics & Spelling:** Early reading relies on daily Phonics Bug sessions in EYFS and Key Stage 1. Targeted phonics interventions support KS2 pupils where barriers to reading remain. Spelling is taught daily using *Ready Steady Spell*.
- **Cross-Curricular Application:** Spoken language is actively modelled ("say it, write it"). Subject-specific vocabulary and writing genres are embedded and reinforced across all foundation subjects.

Impact

The impact of our English curriculum is evaluated through pupil voice, governor visits, work scrutinies, and internal and statutory national assessments:

- **Progress:** Children build solid phonic foundations in KS1 and develop fluency through KS2, making progress from their individual starting points.
- **Outcomes:** Through the implementation of our Literacy Counts schemes, pupils work towards writing accurately with clarity, purpose, and an adaptable style suited to diverse audiences.
- **Readiness:** Pupils acquire an expansive vocabulary, a love of literature, and the essential literacy tools required to prepare them for the next stage of their education.