

Phonics Introduction

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

Nurture – At Darwen St James' CE Primary Academy, we believe that every child can achieve great things. We provide a nurturing environment through Christian values where everyone feels happy, safe, secure and valued. We set high expectations for all our pupils, and we work hard to ensure they meet them. We believe that Literacy and Communication are key life skills and that it is our role, through the English curriculum, to help children develop the skills and knowledge that will enable them to communicate effectively and creatively with the world at large, through spoken and written language. Through a love of reading that is embedded within our school, we endeavour to help children to enjoy and appreciate literature and its rich variety.

Ambition – As a school, we aim to promote high standards of Language and Literacy by equipping children with a strong command of the spoken and written word, and to develop their love of literature through widespread reading both across the curriculum and at home. We use Growth Mindset language to promote resilience in the children's approach to learning. To nurture a love of reading and develop fluent communication skills, we also dedicate more time to literacy and English. We visit the local Library and have met a number of Authors in order to inspire children with their reading and writing. Through our 'Aim High Day', the children are able to experience different roles within the community in order to inspire them to become more ambitious in their education and future goals, whilst gaining an understanding of the role reading and writing plays in their future.

Faith - To make sure children have a successful attitude to their learning and ability, we have chosen 5 whole school values (Perseverance, Courage, Hope, Love and Friendship) and we adopt a Growth Mindset approach throughout school, including through our English curriculum. Growth Mindset describes the underlying beliefs people have about learning and intelligence. We also develop children's Growth Mindset within English by reading books with characters who face challenges and develop strategies to overcome them. We set activities which include team work, challenges, risk taking and perseverance.

Citizens – Through our English curriculum, we aim to equip children with the life skills to play an active role as local, national and global citizens. Our staff recognise the barriers that children face in building literacy skills, and we offer tools and expertise to enable the best support for students. When students believe they can get smarter, they understand that effort makes them stronger. Therefore they put in extra time and effort, and that leads to higher achievement.

Darwen St James'
C of E Primary Academy

