

Poetry at Harrow Gate Academy

Intent

At Harrow Gate, poetry is purposeful and valued. We aim to develop a love of poetry across the school by exposing children to different types of poetry and different poets all supported by research completed by CLPE.



"We know that helping children start life playing with words, poems and songs is the perfect way to become a confident speaker and writer. Under-fives soak up language and we can help make that happen by sharing books with them."
Michael Rosen Feb 2022

Implementation

CLPE is at the heart of our English curriculum.

We pride ourselves in being a CLPE Power of Reading Associate School.

Poetry has a real place within CLPE and here at Harrow Gate. It helps us to promote a love of reading, which in turns plays a crucial role in developing our writing. We strongly believe that poetry has many benefits and below are a few we think are key.

By ensuring children have a good awareness of rhyme and rhyming it helps them to become better readers and spellers. A focus on rhyme helps them look at patterns within words and how they are formed, supporting word recognition and spelling.

Playing with sounds and rhyming patterns in words supports the development of the vocal apparatus in the mouth, pharynx and nose, helping speech and language development, which then paves the way for the articulation of phonemes as children start to tackle phonics in Reception.

The tunes and patterns of poems on the page support children in developing reading fluency, meaning poetry is a perfect vehicle for engaging more reluctant readers, as well as for encouraging more confident readers to pay closer attention to the words on the page: an important skill for reading comprehension.

We ensure that well-chosen poems are selected, each year group has a dedicated poetry book in Summer 1. This book enables writing opportunities and for children to be exposed to a range of different poems and the different key features of poetry. In addition to this each year group also has a poetry canon book, where a specific poet and selection of poems are looked at. As a minimum 6 will be covered per year but this is not limited to 6 and staff are encouraged to share other poems within the book.

By exposing the children to a range of poetry, it gives them the opportunity to gain a sense of voice, and think carefully about their subject matter, language, grammar and style through then creating poetry of their own.

The CLiPPA Shadowing Scheme is one way that Harrow Gate will also implement poetry. This will be by accessing a range of resources, including videos of poets performing their work and teaching notes that focus on listening to poetry, capturing children's responses, responding to language and themes, learning about poetic forms and devices and encouraging children to become writers of poetry themselves. Children will then use their poetry performance skills to participate in a whole school poetry SLAM.

Impact

Our school provides a **text rich reading and writing environment** that allows children to thrive as writers.

It is a place where children see themselves as writers, are developing positive attitudes towards writing and their own authorial voice. Our vision is to become a **'writing for pleasure school'** where children choose to write because they enjoy writing.

Children will be given the opportunity to **orally rehearse and perform** a class chosen poem in our whole school poetry slam.

Through the use of poetry we are hopeful that this will happen authentically and allow the children to show their natural flare- children will become confident knowing poets, poems and being able to perform to others.