

Intent:

At Creeting St Mary CofE School we believe that a quality English curriculum should develop children's love of reading, writing and discussion. We aim to inspire an appreciation of our rich and varied literary heritage and a habit of reading widely and often.

We recognise the importance of cultivating a culture where children take pride in their writing, can write clearly and accurately and adapt their language and style for a range of contexts. We want to inspire children to be confident in the arts of speaking and listening and be able to use discussion to develop their learning. We believe that a thorough grasp of literacy skills is crucial to a high-quality education and will give our children the tools they need to participate fully as a member of society.

We promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development throughout English lessons.

We give all children the opportunity to enter the magical worlds that books open up to them. We promote reading for pleasure as part of our reading curriculum. Children are encouraged to develop their own love of genres and authors and to review their books objectively. This enhances a deep love of literature across a range of genres, cultures and styles.

Implementation:

The 2014 National Curriculum states that: *'English has a pre-eminent place in education and in society. 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.'*

These aims are embedded across our English lessons and the wider curriculum. We have a rigorous and well organised English curriculum that provides many purposeful opportunities for reading, writing and discussion. We use a wide variety of quality texts and resources to motivate and inspire our children.

Children take part in Whole Class Reading whereby rich texts enable discussion, excitement and development of language, which in turn, inspires our children to incorporate language from these texts in their own writing. We also provide a wealth of enrichment opportunities - hosting World Book Day, theatre trips, visiting Harry Potter World and hosting visiting authors.

All teachers plan stimulating English lessons which incorporate ICT, drama and collaborative learning so that children are excited and enthused in their lessons, leading to a strong motivation to write.

The following writing approaches are used to ensure pupils are taught;

- The writing process – planning, goal setting, drafting, evaluating, revising, editing
- Writing for different purposes
- Being fluent in spelling, handwriting, sentence construction, typing and word processing
- Specific outcomes/goals for writing are specified
- Daily writing is linked to the reading taking place
- Creating an engaged community of writers

We give children ‘live’ feedback about their learning in the lesson; which enables children to adjust their learning based on the instant feedback provided by teachers and teaching and learning assistants. At Creeting St Mary CofE School, we believe it is important to give children feedback that is rich and meaningful so that they are aware of their triumphs and those areas that they need to be focussing on, as well as providing a platform for teacher and child discussion whereby children feel confident to address misconceptions and raise any thoughts and feelings about their learning.

Impact:

As a result we have a community of enthusiastic readers and writers who enjoy showcasing their developing literacy skills. They are confident to take risks, and love to discuss and share their ideas. Our attainment at the end of KS1 and KS2 is above the National Average and in KS2 we have achieved positive progress scores for the last three years for reading and improved scores for writing.

English in the Early Years:

English is one of the seven aspects to the Early Years Framework, known as Literacy and is fundamental to enable a child’s successful development of Reading and Writing as they progress throughout the rest of the school.

In Early Years, we promote early Reading and Writing in children as we believe it underpins their natural curiosity of storytelling and early mark marking/writing.

We carefully plan for Literacy throughout our continuous provision, enabling mark making and early sound recognition throughout independent time.

Throughout the year, we provide fun and exciting reading activities for children including; fishing out sounds from the water tray, squirting different phonemes using water guns as well as taking books into the outdoor areas for children to enjoy while sitting on the grass. In Reception we follow on from pre-school phonics coverage of Phase One Phonics. We then teach individual phonemes, starting with Phase Two and finish phase three by the end of the summer term. During daily Phonics sessions we can teach children to discriminate between different phonemes as well as teaching them to segment and blend sounds in words to read

them. In addition to this, we share a love for reading with various stories that can be shared with the children. We focus on a high-quality text and provide opportunities for the children to sequence, re-tell and use role play to develop their own ideas of storytelling. Pupils have opportunities to write for purpose and enjoy sharing and showcasing their work both in the setting and with visitors in assemblies.