



***“English is the language of the future, the most important tool you’ll ever need, no matter what career you choose. You have the right to English. Make it your right!” Benjamin Zephaniah***

## **Literacy across the Curriculum**

The ability to read and write well is a vital skill for all children, paving the way for an enjoyable and successful school experience. English, therefore is both a subject in its own right and used as the medium for teaching. Fluency in the English language is an essential foundation for success in all the subjects taught at our school.

At St. Joseph’s every teacher will work with pupils in their care to develop and practise many of the skills that they need for reading and writing from Year 5 onwards; building on the skills they have acquired already at home, and in their first schools. Through our teaching we will develop pupils’ spoken language, reading, writing and vocabulary as integral aspects of the teaching of every subject.

### **Spoken Language**

Children will be taught to speak clearly and convey ideas confidently using Standard English. They will learn to justify ideas with reasons; ask questions to check understanding; develop vocabulary and build knowledge; negotiate; evaluate and build on the ideas of others; and select the appropriate register for effective communication. They will be taught to give well-structured descriptions and explanations and develop their understanding through exploring ideas. This will enable them to clarify their thinking as well as organise their ideas for writing. In addition, pupils will recognise the importance of roleplay and drama activities as a vital tool to help develop confidence and oracy.

### **Reading and Writing**

We will develop children’s reading and writing in all subjects to support their acquisition of knowledge. Children will be taught to read fluently, understand extended prose (both fiction and non-fiction) and will be encouraged to read for pleasure. We will do everything to promote reading for pleasure. Using our well-stocked library facilities, we will also set ambitious expectations for

reading at home. Pupils will develop their stamina in both reading and writing and acquire the skills to be able to write at length with accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar. Whenever possible writing tasks across the different subjects will complement the English curriculum by covering a range of purposes: narratives, explanations, comparisons, reports, summaries and evaluations.

## **Vocabulary Development**

We believe that it is imperative to induct pupils into the language that defines each subject in its own right therefore the acquisition of new vocabulary is key to pupils' learning and progress across the curriculum here at St. Joseph's. Subject teachers will help pupils to develop vocabulary by displaying and sharing key words connected to every new topic. They will aim to increase pupils' store of words in general, making links between known and new vocabulary and discussing the shades of meaning. By reinforcing this vocabulary, pupils will expand upon the vocabulary choices made to them and be able to incorporate this in their writing. As our pupils progress through the school, we will also familiarise them with the instructional verbs they may encounter in examination questions.

## **English**

Here at St. Joseph's, emphasis is placed firmly on the development of spoken and written English, with the teaching of reading as a major priority. The school's aim is to foster the development of a literate, articulate child who is able to approach spoken and written forms of communication confidently. A particular effort is made to involve parents in the vital partnership of teaching reading.

The overarching aim for English in the national curriculum is to promote high standards of literacy by equipping pupils with a strong command of the written and spoken word, 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.

We are committed to delivering an exciting and inspiring curriculum and wherever possible is linked to real life situations and experiences. We have updated our schemes of work to reflect the content and challenge of the new curriculum and teachers have received training in the key areas of curriculum change in order for us to provide an outstanding curriculum for all our pupils.

Our curriculum is taught with the consideration of the needs of all learners. We want are committed to teaching a curriculum which inspires them to develop a passion for learning and literature. Lessons should add spark and energy and encourage inquisitiveness, confidence and a strong sense of self-worth in our pupils.

***“Shakespeare’s taught me that there are more words in the English language than I have got in my head.” Zoe Wannamaker***