



English Policy

September 2020

Next review September 2021

It is the aim of the school that all children achieve the highest results and that opportunities are given for all children to achieve their true potential.

Both classes will devote at least four lessons in a week for the teaching of English as laid down in the National Curriculum for England and provide appropriate learning experiences for the Foundation Stage children.

We are aiming to teach children to achieve the following:

- ◆ Read and write with confidence, fluency and understanding
- ◆ Be able to orchestrate a full range of reading clues (phonic, graphic, syntactic, contextual) to monitor their reading and to correct their own mistakes
- ◆ Understand the sound and spelling system and use this to read and spell accurately
- ◆ Have fluent and legible handwriting
- ◆ Have an interest in words and their meanings and a growing vocabulary
- ◆ Know, understand and be able to write in a range of genres in fiction and poetry, and understand and be familiar with some of the ways in which narratives are structured through basic literacy ideas of setting, character and plot
- ◆ Understand, use and be able to write a range of non-fiction texts
- ◆ Plan, draft, revise and edit their own writing
- ◆ Have a suitable technical vocabulary through which to understand and discuss their reading and writing
- ◆ Be interested in books, read with enjoyment and evaluate and justify their preferences
- ◆ Through reading and writing, develop their powers of imagination, inventiveness and critical awareness



English across the curriculum

Where appropriate, the English learnt within specific English lessons will be implemented and developed within other lessons across the curriculum.

Speaking and Listening

Children will be given opportunities to express themselves in a variety of ways and widen their vocabulary by discussions and listening to others. Teachers and other adults working in school will foster an environment in the class and around the school where children's thoughts and opinions are valued. This will be achieved through discussions, reading and listening to others, drama and show and tell.

Reading

Children at Mount Pleasant School will be given a broad and balanced reading programme where they will have the opportunity to participate in shared, guided and individual reading activities. Texts for individual readers are graded in order of difficulty and matched to the individual child's reading ability. Children will be taught a range of reading skills based on ARE that will help them achieve their true potential. Resources for the teaching of reading will be regularly reviewed and updated, this will also include the use of IT resources.

Guided Reading

Guided Reading sessions are based around the practice of reading comprehension strategies through focused, targeted lessons ensuring every pupil reaches age-related expectations. Guided reading supports the development of key skills such as inference and deduction from the start. The sessions aim to boost vocabulary extending expressive and receptive vocabulary.

We ensure that there are assessment opportunities both, formative and summative to fully assess pupil progress in reading.



Writing

We are aiming here at Mount Pleasant School to encourage children to become proficient writers who are able to convey meaning, matching different styles to purpose and audience. Our approach is grounded in our belief that it is vital that we teach children to read and write with competence and confidence, while facilitating their desire to do. Children are exposed to a wide range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry genres through the Hamilton Trust English planning resources which also covers all aspects of English, including SPAG, within the context of the range genres.

Children will therefore be taught:

- ◆ Phonics using the Government 'Letters and Sounds' scheme.
- ◆ Spelling using the Headstart Spelling Programme based on the National Curriculum for England.
- ◆ To plan, draft, revise and proof read their writing before the final presentation
- ◆ To use a variety of resources to aid the writing process e.g. whiteboards and computers.

SPAG

- ◆ Spag is taught through the Hamilton Trust English blocks, each unit covers one or two grammar objectives usually over three day's teaching.
- ◆ The grammar is contextualised so that children understand and are motivated to use new grammatical forms in real writing.
- ◆ Children are exposed to age appropriate focussed SPAG which is taught as part of the units. In KS1 it is taught and recorded in English books; in KS2 it is taught discretely and recorded in a separate folder.
- ◆ The grammar content is presented in the context of a high-quality text. Children's activities engage with the grammar drawn out of the text, so that it is not just an abstract notion.
- ◆ The children have the chance and are expected to enhance their own expression, giving context and purpose to the grammar objectives.



Handwriting

The children will be taught to use the correct, cursive letter formation aiming towards clear, legible handwriting by following the Collins 'Treasure House Handwriting.' This is a whole-school programme designed to support children from, Foundation Stage to Y6 in developing a clear and fluent style of writing.

The children are taught precursive and cursive handwriting styles; progressing from introducing the movements and patterns needed to form letters, through to the development of a personal style. The scheme provides extra practice in the transition from precursive to cursive letters, with the development of a cursive hand to the introduction of spelling patterns.

Resources

The main resources in the teaching of English are the National Curriculum and the EYFS guidance. Plans are supplemented using: Collins, Hamilton Trust and other appropriate resources. Planning uses the Mount Pleasant English Plans Cycle A and B for each phase.

Pupils with Special Needs

All pupils with Special Needs are included and join in the lessons taking due regard of the requirements of individual educational programmes.