

Forest Oak School



Curriculum Intent, Implementation and Impact statement for *English*

Curriculum Area/Subject Lead(s):

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Intent

At Forest Oak School, communication and understanding are at the heart of everything we do, which is why phonics, literacy and oracy are at the heart of our curriculum from reception through to 6th Form. We believe that the ability to speak and listen, to understand and be understood is essential for all children to be able to express their opinions and ideas.

The ability to read allows access to the other curriculum areas and a means of safely engaging with the outside world. It is also our intention that the children develop a life-long love of reading, which we will achieve by inspiring the children's curiosity and interest by allowing the children to explore and understand a range of text and genres, broadening their horizons and linking closely to our wider curriculum topics.

It is our aim that when the children learn to write, they will further their means of communication and to be able to write for a variety of purposes. We recognise the importance of nurturing a culture where children can take pride in their writing and can write clearly, accurately and confidently within a range of different genres and purposes, which will prepare them for real life situations.

Implementation

Speaking and Listening

Our children will develop their speaking and listening skills through a multi-sensory and fun approach to communication. They will be encouraged to take part in singing, role play activities, one to one conversations with adults and peers and speaking in small groups.

Students will also be encouraged to grow in confidence by speaking to different audiences by taking part in assemblies, showing round visitors and by joining the school council, who meet to discuss their opinions on school issues.

As the progress through the school, our young people will put their speaking and listening skills into focus by going on work experience placements, interacting with a range of people, including colleagues and the general public. We have had lovely feedback from work experience placements on how polite and well-spoken lots of our students are on placement, reflecting the values of Forest Oak.

Reading

Our children will begin their word-level reading and comprehension development through the teaching of phonics, using the schemes Little Wandle and Jolly phonics. The children will establish and develop their knowledge and awareness of the link between a sound and its written form. In the early stages of reading, the children's phonic knowledge is established in a fun, multi-sensory way through discrete daily phonic sessions. As children consolidate their understanding of phonic sounds, they will learn to orally blend sounds to make words, ensuring they have the necessary understanding. Alongside the children's journey to independently read, they will have access to a variety of texts, which will be shared with them in class by an adult, as well as child centred activities inspired by the text.

As a child's ability to read further develops, they will take part in guided reading sessions to immerse them into a range of exciting and engaging literature. These sessions support the children's reading at word and sentence level as well as teaching them to deduce information, infer meaning and make predictions. Pupils are taught strategies to independently work at the pronunciation and meaning of new words. Throughout upper school, we widen the variety of texts, looking at fiction and non-fiction, alongside an increase in difficulty, sophistication and access to more grown-up themes, ensuring that the text that is offered and that the work expected is in line with the child's cognitive ability and emotional understanding.

Writing

Throughout the school, our literacy practice is child centred, taking into account each individual's strengths and needs at all times, making writing engaging and relevant.

Written literacy begins at the earliest stage where we encourage learning through play, with the use of mark making, using tactile items such as sand and plasticine. As the children become more confident with their fine motor skills, they will be encouraged to practise their grip and pencil control to make marks. Using hand over hand and specialist handwriting booklets, our pupils become familiar with letters of the alphabet. We learn essential spellings, such as days of the week and months of the year through song.

In KS2 and above the children practise their spellings daily, learning not only the correct spellings for common words but how they put them in context. The children build up their literacy skills and then use these skills in a variety of ways, whilst exploring different genres, including fiction and non-fiction. We ensure that the children are immersed into each particular text type, which gives them a great starting point to reach the intended outcome.

In KS4 and 5, the students will build on previous taught skills and knowledge and move on to use their literacy skills in a range of real-life scenarios. Examples of these skills include completing a job application form or applying for a gym membership. They will have access to qualifications, which will show their achievements in Literacy, which they can continue to build on after leaving Forest Oak.

Impact

At Forest Oak, we are dedicated in supporting all of our young people in being able to express themselves in a variety of ways, whether it is spoken, written or signed. Progress in English will look different for every child in school. We measure the success of each child in a variety of ways, through written work and photographs to portfolios of coursework at Entry level. Our intentions are that our English curriculum will support our pupil's lives beyond Forest Oak, be it going into further education, training or employment. We want our young people to be confident and to be able to express themselves, whilst understanding the world around them.

