

Rationale & Intent

The teaching and learning of English at Brentry Primary School is linked directly to our school mission. We strive to deliver an engaging English curriculum that will foster a positive attitude to literacy as an interesting and exciting part of the curriculum. We encourage pupils' **Achievement** throughout, helping them to speak, read and write confidently, and use their imagination.

Our English curriculum enables children to be effective communicators, to read and respond to a wide range of texts with confidence, and to use a variety of skills to write for different purposes. Children are encouraged to apply their knowledge and understanding of phonics, spelling rules, grammar and punctuation to reading and writing opportunities across the curriculum, providing pupils with relevant and purposeful opportunities to develop their ability to read, understand and engage with various genres for enjoyment and learning.

Our pupils generally enter our Reception Class with poor basic literacy skills. Integrating a Talk for Writing approach throughout the curriculum, particularly in Reception and KS1, allows for essential speaking and listening skills to build from the beginning, and encourages pupils' confidence in writing. There is also a strong focus on daily phonics lessons; we follow a systematic approach, stemming from the 'Letters and Sounds' programme. Alongside this, we use the VIPERS reading comprehension programme to support whole-class lessons, ensuring children of all abilities are immersed in the same high-quality literature and the discussions that these texts promote.

We are well aware of the differences in experiences that some of our children may have outside of school. One key area of concern for us is a lack of exposure to a rich vocabulary or quality reading materials. It is therefore crucial that as well as being taught essential knowledge and skills, pupils are exposed to a large bank of words across the curriculum, thus enabling understanding in all subjects. We provide a language rich environment that promotes a culture of reading and writing, developing an interest in and an **Enjoyment** of books and literature that will not only support their learning but also enrich their lives. We aim to further develop cultural capital by giving pupils enrichment opportunities and experiences such as author visits, poetry reading, school trips and family reading events.

We endeavour to help pupils reflect on their learning and aim high, enabling them to function as well-informed individuals well after they leave school, and allowing them to experience the awe and wonder of the world in which they live.