

English Curriculum Statement

Intent:

We believe that the skills encompassed in English are vital for underpinning every area of the school curriculum. Emphasis is placed on the development of spoken and written English, with the teaching of reading and the fostering of a 'love of reading'. The school's aim is to encourage the development of a literate, articulate child, who is able to approach both spoken and written forms of communication confidently.

Implementation:

Reading

Reading activities begin in the Early Years through sharing stories, poems and books of all types. In Reception the children begin phonics and build upon this knowledge throughout the rest of Early Years and KS1. Alongside this children also learn to read key words to build their sight vocabulary. Reading schemes are used to support children as they develop their abilities. These ensure a structured progression in reading, alongside the teaching of phonics. A wide range of rich, stimulating texts, both fiction and non-fiction, are available for pupils in the classrooms and the library. We provide the children with a variety of cross-curricular reading experiences which leads to confident readers, who are able to read for deeper meaning and discuss their opinions on a variety of different styles of text. The school runs an annual book day, holds book fairs and also keeps children and families up to date with new authors and books throughout the school year.

Writing

Children are encouraged to mark make as soon as they start in our Nursery and Reception classes. This is encouraged on a large scale, both inside and out. In line with their phonics learning, our younger children are encouraged to 'have a go' and will begin to use their sounds with some support and some adult scribing. In all age ranges, children have frequent opportunities to write for a variety of purposes and audiences; not just in English but across the curriculum. We use examples of both modern and heritage; British and International literature as the starting point for children's work and place great importance on composition and effect. The children have opportunities to write individually and in groups, as the teacher models writing skills and gives direct feedback. To stimulate children's writing we use carefully selected stories, animations, plays, film clips, poems and life experiences. They learn the drafting process, spelling patterns and grammatical terms to use in their own writing; as well as creating interactive learning environments within book corners in each classroom. Spelling and grammar are carefully and systematically embedded across the school and we follow the National Curriculum grammar progression. Regular opportunities for extended composition builds children's stamina for writing. We teach self and peer editing to improve writing. Targeted feedback allows children to learn from their errors as they correct and improve their outcomes. We expect the children to take pride in their presentation and handwriting skills are encouraged, practiced and valued throughout the school, in line with the presentation policy.

Speaking and listening

Children learn through speaking and listening and by encountering a range of situations, activities and audiences, which are designed to develop confidence and competence. These skills are vital in all learning and social situations. We promote these by encouraging children to listen actively and to speak confidently and clearly. Speaking in public is important and children have the opportunity to take part in: drama, circle time, class and year group projects and school productions.

Impact:

Children leave Mytchett:

- with a love of reading and writing;
- with an appreciation of our rich and varied literary heritage;
- able to read easily, fluently and with a deep understanding;
- with the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information;
- with a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language;
- able to articulate their thoughts, ideas and imagination orally and through the written word;
- as creative writers, able to write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences;
- able to use discussion effectively so they can clearly communicate their understanding and ideas;
- Competent in the art of speaking and listening, making formal presentations, and participating in debates with skill and poise.