

English Provision

Whole School Provision

Foundation Stage to Year 2

Our pupils learn to read and write using *phonics, guided reading and the whole class teaching of reading* and writing.

We teach pupils to:

- decode letter-sound correspondences quickly and effortlessly, using their phonic knowledge and skills
- read 'tricky' words on sight
- understand what they read
- read aloud with fluency and expression
- write confidently, with a strong focus on spelling, punctuation, vocabulary and grammar
- spell quickly and easily by segmenting the sounds in words
- acquire cursive handwriting .

Phonics

The St Teresa's Phonics Scheme is unique. It is based on the Nottingham City scheme but we have adapted it to meet the needs of the children at our school.

We teach children to decode letter-sound correspondences quickly and effortlessly, using their phonic knowledge and skills. We also teach the children to spell quickly and easily by segmenting the sounds in words. We teach the children to recognise 'tricky words' by sight and to spell them. We ensure that children have understood what they have read and that they read with fluency and expression. The children at St Teresa's write confidently with a strong focus on vocabulary and grammar.

From Foundation, the children are taught to write in the St Teresa's cursive handwriting style.

Each sound is taught with an action. Actions are linked to children's first hand experiences.

Embedding the alphabetic code early on means that pupils quickly learn to write simple words and sentences. We encourage them to compose each sentence aloud until they are confident to write independently. We make sure they write every day. Pupils write at the level of their spelling knowledge, using their knowledge of the alphabetic code and the tricky words they have learnt. They can soon spell more complex words confidently and accurately. The quality of the vocabulary they use in their writing reflects the language they have heard in the books the teacher has read to them.

Our aim is for pupils to complete the phonics programme as quickly as possible. The sooner they complete it, the sooner they will be able to choose books to read at their own interest and comprehension level.

Year 2 to Year 6

Our Literacy and Language programme teaches English in a topic based, fun and meaningful way. We develop children's ability to understand what they read and to read with ever-greater fluency. We also seek to develop a love of reading through exploring interesting and challenging texts that inspire

and captivate in our guided reading sessions. Our teaching of writing provides structured and explicit support for writing composition and addresses the grammar and punctuation aspects of statutory assessments by teaching SPAG explicitly and implicitly. Speaking and Listening, drama and discussion are integral parts of our teaching. Children also develop their reading ability and love of reading through a range of individual reading books.

Spelling

Spelling is taught on a weekly basis as an explicit lesson, whilst it is taught implicitly on a daily basis. The spelling strategies are taken from the New National Curriculum Appendix.

Handwriting

We aim to teach children to use neat, legible and confident handwriting. We teach a cursive handwriting style. Children are first introduced to letter formation hand-in-hand with the introduction of sounds. Each letter has a formation 'phrase' to help children to form their letters. When children are secure with the formation of lower case letters, capital letters are introduced. From Year 1 onwards we teach children how to join letters and how to eventually develop a personal style.

Provision for Children with specific assessed needs

Children with specific needs are taught reading, writing and spelling as above, although this may be done in small groups or on a one-to-one basis. Some children receive short, targeted interventions with teaching assistants as and when the need arises. We believe in early intervention and in Foundation we begin intervention groups in the Autumn term. If children have not passed the phonic test in Year 1, extra phonic sessions are given in Year 2. Before school groups focus on pre learning skills to support learning and take place every morning. Some children will join another class which are working at their level in order to 'plug the gaps.' We offer some children in year 5 and 6 one-to-one English tuition or attend booster groups to accelerate their progress in English.

Some children who struggle with reading, are heard to read every day, and are supported through small reading intervention groups. Children who struggle with spelling are given small group support and early morning group support focusing on letter strings and strategies. Those who have dyslexic tendencies are provided with coloured overviews through which to read and yellow exercise books to help with their writing.