

English Curriculum Intent

Whole School Curriculum Intent

Our Curriculum is designed with ambition for all in mind. Ambition for our children as learners and community members, ambition for our teachers and for the world; now and in the future. Our curriculum will create independent, creative, curious, resilient and reflective learners.

Subject Intent

At Dearham, we believe that reading and comprehending is the key to learning, underpinning all areas of the curriculum. This is promoted through English lessons, class novels and reading comprehension activities, as well as linking texts to topic work in other areas of the curriculum, such as history and science. We encourage our pupils to read extensively at home, incorporating a range of text types, including stories, poetry, non-fiction, classic texts and a wide-range of texts from well-known authors. As well as this, each class has a wide-range of texts linked to topics. At Dearham, we believe that children should have the autonomy to choose the texts that interest and challenge them as a reader, as well as texts that have been recommended to them by peers or adults. Evidence shows that a child's ability to read, process and understand texts, to respond appropriately and to express themselves clearly in writing underpins his or her ability to access the whole curriculum. Through having competence and confidence when using and applying these English-based skills, our pupils will develop an ongoing love and thirst for learning, and an ability to grow as learners who are creative, independent of thought and resilient.

Our pupils are expected to speak politely, clearly and correctly; they are encouraged to convey their ideas fluently and confidently and to ask questions. Our children are encouraged to speak in class, around school, in assemblies and gain confidence in speaking to visitors to our school. We encourage our children to write often and well, through providing a diverse range of stimulating writing throughout the week, leading to extended writing that allows children to choose vocabulary and structures for a given audience. Class novels, theatre productions, film clips, music and class visits are all used as a means of generating and supporting creativity in writing and reading.

National Curriculum Aims for English

The overarching aim for English in the national curriculum is to promote high standards of language and literacy by equipping pupils with a strong command of the spoken and written word, and to develop their love of literature through widespread reading for enjoyment. The national curriculum for English aims to ensure that all pupils:

- read easily, fluently and with good understanding
- develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information
- acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage
- write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences
- use discussion in order to learn; they should be able to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas
- are competent in the arts of speaking and listening, making formal presentations, demonstrating to others and participating in debate.