

## The English curriculum at Sandylands

### Key principles (aims)

- To offer a high-quality English curriculum, which teaches all pupils to speak, read and write fluently so that they can communicate their learning, ideas and opinions;
- To make every child a fluent reader, who uses expression and intonation when reading aloud (at their level);
- To promote high standards of language and literacy by equipping children with a strong command of spoken and written language;
- To develop children's love of literature through widespread reading for enjoyment.

### Key practices (non-negotiables)

- A dedicated hour of English a day;
- Daily Guided Reading sessions;
- Phonics daily, using the Read Write Inc. phonics programme;
- Provide specialist support in phonics to those at risk of not being able to read;
- Handwriting taught explicitly across the school, with children being taught the correct pencil grip and letter formation; Year 6 children will be competent and comfortable writing with a fountain pen;
- Pupils with SEN or disabilities will be provided with alternative methods of writing, e.g. through the use of a laptop or other adaptations as needed;
- All children will have access to a diverse range of quality texts, both fiction and non-fiction to reflect society in Britain today;
- Provide support in speech and language and early communication for children in EYFS and Year 1;
- Encouragement to borrow books from school, for those children who do not have access to reading materials at home;
- Offer opportunities beyond the curriculum to develop a love of reading, e.g. book clubs, author visits, reading ambassadors and reading passports;
- A clear focus on grammar, punctuation and spelling and its importance in enabling children to become fluent and effective communicators;
- Opportunities for children to write across the curriculum, using their key learning from other subjects.

### English guarantees

- Children speak, read and write well at their developmental level and are confident and competent to transition to the Year 7 curriculum;
- They are accurate and confident when using grammar, punctuation and spelling;
- Children will develop their handwriting to an individual legible style by Year 6;
- They will engage and develop a love of language;
- All children are entitled to a diverse range of quality texts, both fiction and non-fiction and are read to every day;
- They are entitled to have the best speaking and listening modelled to them;
- Writing is modelled for pupils, demonstrating neat handwriting and the clear expression of ideas;
- Children's classrooms are inviting and stimulating learning environments, reflecting a love of language and a love of reading;
- Children know the pathways for further study in English;
- Children see that reading is a pleasurable pastime that can enhance their wellbeing.