

Literacy

At Bishop Loveday



Literacy is at the heart of our curriculum. We believe that it is an essential life skill and as such we embed other curriculum areas into literacy lessons in order to develop pupils' spoken language, reading, writing and vocabulary. Across any given week, children experience a wide range of literacy-based activities and skills, allowing them to learn, practise and adapt their knowledge, skills and understanding to everyday life. Throughout the school we incorporate drama, role-play and speaking and listening opportunities into all aspects of school life to enhance speaking and listening skills.

Cross curricular topics are used to ensure learning is purposeful and exciting, aiming to:

- develop competent writers;
- develop enthusiastic readers, who are able to deduce and infer from a text;
- embed a love of reading and a thirst for knowledge;
- instil life-long learning skills;
- develop individuals who are fluent in the English language.

Children are taught in daily literacy lessons, which last between 45 and 60 minutes. Objectives from the National curriculum are grouped into units of work which often focus on a specific genre e.g. reports, stories, poetry and instructions. Planning follows a teaching cycle of reading, to identify features and techniques, speaking and idea generating and then writing. Specific grammatical or punctuation points are taught where appropriate in the cycle as well as in isolated lessons.

In addition to the main literacy lesson, children engage in guided reading sessions. These lessons enable children to develop skills in reading, with texts that challenge their thinking, whilst supported by a teaching member of staff. Guided reading groups are normally determined by reading ability and focus on comprehension skills as well as decoding strategies. In addition, children are given individual reading books to read at home and at school and have opportunities to use the school library and classroom-based books.

We believe that whilst children are learning to read, they should also be learning to love books. Consequently, a range of whole school activities are planned, for example, Book Week and character days, reading picnics, author visits, to support the development of a love of literature.

Pupils are taught to read through adopting a range of strategies to decode print. One of these strategies is phonics, the breaking down of language into its component sounds. We follow the ReadWriteInc. programme across EYFS and KS1, extending the programme into KS2 where appropriate. Sessions take place daily, lasting 30 minutes.

Speaking and Listening is a vital part of our literacy curriculum. If a child cannot 'speak' something, they cannot 'write' it. Children are given opportunities to engage in formal and informal speaking and listening opportunities across the school, including 'Show and Tell' sessions in Early Years, Years 1 and 2; class assemblies and performances.

The children are taught how to hold a pen or pencil correctly in Early Years. After learning the basic letter formation they are taught how to join letters and develop cursive handwriting. Additional handwriting practice is used to support children's motor skills where necessary.

Literacy is not only taught as a discrete subject but is linked across all curriculum areas. When planning for our Cornerstones topics, usually covering History, Geography, Science, Art and DT, teachers identify specific areas where specific literacy skills can be reinforced or embedded.

At Bishop Loveday CE Primary School, we follow the statutory National Curriculum Programme of Study for English in Key Stages 1 and 2. These can be accessed by clicking [here](#). Additional key documents for each year group can be found on the website, under 'Curriculum'.