



English at Wincheap Foundation Primary School

'Celebrating individuality, enabling every child to flourish and reach their potential'

At Wincheap, we believe that success in reading and writing will enable pupils to flourish confidently across the wider curriculum. Therefore, we attach great importance to ensuring that every child is supported to make very good progress across the entire English curriculum so that they can fully reach their potential in all subjects. English lessons are designed to promote the development of pupils' written and spoken language, vocabulary, reading and writing as well as building sequentially on their knowledge of spelling and grammar.

Pupils love reading at Wincheap and achieve very well as a result, especially by the end of key stage 2. Their vocabulary acquisition and comprehension skills are developed in all year groups both in reading lessons and through teachers reading to classes across different subject areas and a range of genres, with reading at the heart of the curriculum.

In English, we make close links between termly topics and the objectives of the programmes of study of the National Curriculum and the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework, providing opportunities to study a rich range of texts connected to wider learning and write in meaningful contexts and for a real purpose.

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

How we teach English

At Wincheap, we follow the knowledge progression set out in the National Curriculum for English. The programmes of study for key stage one and key stage two can be found below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-english-programmes-of-study>

English is taught daily across the whole school with lessons broken up into phonics, reading, writing and grammar, punctuation and spelling (GPS). In KS1 there are daily 50-minute phonics and reading lessons, followed by writing sessions which incorporate GPS. In KS2, daily English lessons include reading, writing and GPS. Upper KS2 have separate reading and writing lessons to focus on building comprehension skills within reading, which are taught explicitly throughout guided reading sessions

Careful planning ensures that lessons are pitched at the correct level and that learning is adapted to meet the needs of all children. In KS1 and Reception, children are often taught phonics and reading in smaller groups. Groupings are fluid and pupils are moved quickly to another group if more appropriate for their individual learning needs.

Spelling and grammar are of high importance throughout our lessons, with GPS taught both explicitly and also implicitly through reading and writing lessons. Correct and full grammatical terms are taught, where possible, and children are given the opportunity to transfer their knowledge gained in GPS lessons to their writing. At least one extended piece of writing is encouraged per fortnight, which is then edited/up-levelled by the children using purple editing pens, where appropriate. This encourages the children to make improvements to their own work, following feedback, and also provides opportunities for the children to find and correct their own punctuation or spelling mistakes.

Phonics and Early Reading

Please see the separate information on phonics and early reading on this website.

Love of Reading

We foster children's enjoyment of reading for pleasure as soon as they join our reception classes. Our teachers love reading to their classes and other children in the school, and read regularly from high-quality texts and well-known authors across a range of genres. Our website features stories read by our teachers on Wincheap TV so children can take pleasure from watching and listening at home. Pupils take home 'Love of Reading' books alongside their phonics or reading books and are encouraged to share and enjoy them with their families. We celebrate World Book Day annually and other themed events to promote reading for pleasure. We also encourage authors to talk to the children about their books and their processes when writing. At various points throughout the year, children in different year groups enjoy the opportunity to enter national writing competitions.

Knowledge-rich Projects

At Wincheap, much of the writing within our English curriculum is linked to our carefully sequenced knowledge-rich projects for teaching in the foundation subjects and science. This enables children to make links in their learning, develop vocabulary specific to different subjects and contexts and write for a purpose. Pupils read and write across a range of genres linked to their termly topics.

You can see more about pupils' learning in English and the texts they are reading in each project by looking at the year group curriculum overviews.

Handwriting

At Wincheap, our approach to teaching handwriting aims for pupils to learn to write in a fluid and joined cursive style. To lay the foundations for this, children in Reception are taught to form letters correctly and encouraged to develop the gross and fine motor skills and pencil control necessary for successful handwriting as they move into Year 1. Children practise handwriting patterns as a precursor to cursive before learning to form families of letters with a lead in and join letters correctly. Pupils continue to develop and hone this skill as they progress through the school. Those who need extra support with this throughout the school will have targeted interventions and explicit handwriting techniques taught in English lessons where appropriate.

Technology to Enhance Learning

The use of ICT within English lessons is encouraged, where appropriate, as this inspires pupils and can help to remove barriers for less confident writers. The school provides families with access to the FFT Success for All Phonics Parent Portal, an online reading platform that allows children to read books, both at school and at home, which are closely matched to their developing phonics knowledge and appropriate

to their level of understanding. This helps to improve comprehension skills whilst providing a fun and exciting way for children to read at home. Clicker 7 is also installed on all laptops and computers throughout the school, and is used as a writing tool for children who may find it challenging to generate sentences independently. The predictive text tool enables children to select from appropriate options to create their sentences. It can also be used as a word bank, so that children can demonstrate understanding of the words by using them in independently generated sentences.