

English

Statement of Intent

At St. Elizabeth's Primary School we believe that English is a fundamental life skill: reading, writing and oracy underpin all of the key aspects of our curriculum. Children come to our school with varying levels of language skills, we strive to extend and deepen these skills through a cross- curricular approach inspired by quality texts.

At St. Elizabeth's we aim to foster a culture where children take pride in their writing, can write clearly and accurately and adapt their language and style for a range of contexts. We want our children to appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage and establish a habit of reading widely and often, finding pleasure in what they read. We want our children to be confident in the art of speaking and listening, using discussion to further their learning.

At St. Elizabeth's we aim to provide a lively, stimulating environment in which staff are committed to promoting a wide variety of literary experiences. We believe that the knowledge and skills involved in speaking and listening, reading and writing are vital to success within all areas of education and will prepare our children to effectively engage in adult life.

National Curriculum

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.

Our Vision for Reading:

We believe that reading is a vital skill that will support children's learning across the whole curriculum. As a school, we ensure that our children are taught to read with fluency, accuracy and understanding through a variety of discreet and cross-curricular learning opportunities. We want our children to become enthusiastic, independent and reflective readers but most of all, we want our children to enjoy reading.

Our Aims for Reading:

Children have many opportunities to develop their word reading and comprehension skills: through guided reading sessions, whole class readers, individual reading books, home reading books and reading interventions. We aim to ensure all children:

- Read with confidence, fluency and understanding.

- Are able to use a full range of reading strategies, e.g. phonics, word recognition, graphic knowledge, picture or context clues.
- Have an interest in books and read for enjoyment which provides them with a wealth of texts and story patterns for their own writing.
- Develop the skill of sustained reading.
- Develop imagination and critical awareness through reading experiences of the best examples of traditional and modern literature.
- Have knowledge of a range of authors, poets and playwrights.
- Have experience of group, shared and individual reading.

At St. Elizabeth's Primary School reading takes place on a regular basis for every child. Children are encouraged to read at home daily and a variety of books are available for children to use both in school and at home. Children are taught reading strategies through shared reading during English lessons, other curriculum subjects and during guided reading sessions.

Phonics:

At St Elizabeth's we believe that all our children can become fluent readers and writers. This is why we teach reading through Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised, which is a systematic and synthetic phonics programme. We start teaching phonics in Nursery/Reception and follow the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised progression, which ensures children build on their growing knowledge of the alphabetic code, mastering phonics to read and spell as they move through school.

Individual Reading:

Children's reading is continually assessed, throughout Key Stage 1 all children are given a book banded book appropriate to their level of reading and comprehension. In Key Stage 2, class teachers assess children and decide whether they are able to choose their own book or stay on a book banded book. We provide a wide range of reading material for children to select from, for information and

entertainment. Our reading schemes include: Project X, Bug Club, Out of this World, Collins Big Cat, and Oxford Reading Tree.

Guided Reading:

Guided reading is used throughout the school as a key learning strategy. Teachers and Teaching Assistants conduct small guided reading sessions weekly. These sessions cover a range of assessment foci and reading domains. We have adopted the Literacy Shed Reading Vipers to ensure coverage of all reading domains. For guided reading we have a wide selection of books including fiction, non-fiction and poetry. We also have a wide selection of comprehension resources which are also used in guided reading sessions.

Whole Class Reading

These sessions provide opportunities for the children to model, demonstrate and practise reading aloud with fluency and expression, developing choral reading, echo reading and shared reading skills. Whole class reading sessions comprise of 3 sessions which focus on developing fluency, stamina and understanding of the text. In St. Elizabeth's we teach reading using Literacy Shed Reading VIPERS.

Shared Reading:

Teachers take every opportunity to shared read with a class or group. They demonstrate how to read a wide variety of different genres and text types and show that reading is a pleasurable and informative experience. Once a term we host a whole school 'Big Read,' all classes swap around so that older children can share books or their own writing with younger children. Students from our local High School also join us for these sessions.



Reading at Home:

Reading improves with practice, so regular reading at school and at home will help children to become a better reader. Reading to and with a child every evening for at least 10 minutes can make a dramatic difference to a child's achievement within school. A report from the Oxford Reading Press highlighted the importance of parents reading with their children.

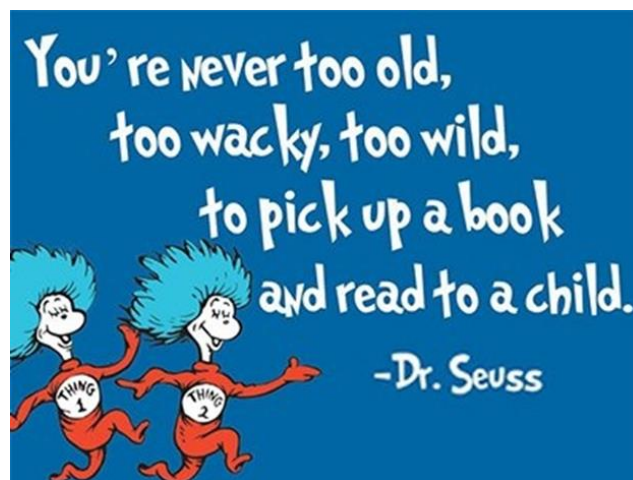
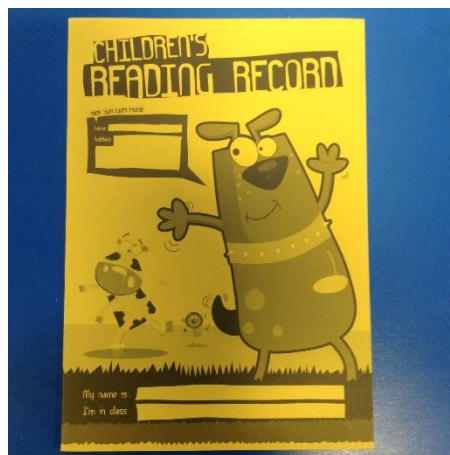
'Children who read outside of class are 13 times more likely to read above the expected level for their age.'

We expect our children to read regularly at home, the following table is a guideline:

Year Group	Reading Expectations at Home
Nursery	Sharing stories and rhymes together, promoting a love for stories
Reception	Reading – 5-10 minutes, 3 x week with an adult, including discussion about the text
Year 1	Reading – 10-15 minutes, 3 x week with an adult, including discussion about the text
Year 2	Reading – 10-15 minutes, 3 x week with an adult, including discussion about the comprehension and inference of the text (see suggested questioning)
Year 3	Reading – 15-20 minutes, 3 x week with an adult, including discussion about the comprehension and inference of the text (see suggested questioning)
Year 4	Reading – 15-20 minutes, 4 x week with an adult, including discussion about the comprehension and inference of the text (see suggested questioning)

Year 5	Reading – 20 minutes, 4 x week with an adult, including discussion about the comprehension and inference of the text (see suggested questioning)
Year 6	Reading – 20 minutes +, 5 x week with an adult, including discussion about the comprehension and inference of the text (see suggested questioning)

All children have their own home reading book and a reading record. Parents are encouraged to listen to their children reading regularly and record this in their children’s reading record.



Reading Volunteers and 1:1 Readers

We acknowledge that some children need some additional support with reading. We have reading volunteers from the reading charity Beanstalk who attend school regularly to give support and encouragement to those children. We also have key children, across the school, who benefit from daily 1:1 reading sessions with an adult. If you would like to volunteer as a reader please pass your name and number into the school office, any support with reading is hugely appreciated.

Celebrating Reading

We celebrate books in many ways in St. Elizabeth's School. Classes regularly host reading conferences in which children and adults discuss their favourite books and authors, providing reading recommendations. Every month a child is selected from each class to recommend their choice of book in assembly, they receive a 'Reader of the Month' certificate and the choice of a new book as a reward.



Authors and poets are frequently invited to our school. In the autumn term the whole school participates in a 'Performance Poetry Week' and in the spring term we have a 'Book Week.' We host two Book Fairs per year and every two years we have a 'Recycle Your Book' day.

