

Introduction

At St. Pius Xth RCVA Primary School, we believe that literacy and communication are key life skills. Literacy enables pupils both to communicate with others effectively for a variety of purposes and to examine their own and others' experiences, feelings and ideas, giving these order and meaning. Because literacy is central to pupils' intellectual, emotional and social development, it has an essential role across the curriculum and helps pupils' learning to be progressive.

Through the English curriculum, we will help pupils develop the skills and knowledge that will enable them to communicate effectively and creatively through spoken and written language, equipping them with the skills to become lifelong learners.

We will:

- a. ensure the effective delivery of the National Curriculum for English;
- b. ensure language skills are developed and used across the whole curriculum;
- c. aid the monitoring of the teaching and learning of language.
- d. develop the skills of each pupil to the highest level;
- e. produce confident pupils able to understand and use appropriately the varieties of language available to them.

Speaking and Listening

At St. Pius Xth RCVA Primary school, pupils are actively encouraged to speak and listen. Staff model effective speaking and listening skills and provide opportunities for pupils to participate in whole school, class and small group discussion throughout the curriculum.

Pupils will be provided with the following speaking and listening opportunities:

- Talking about their own experiences, recounting events
- Participating in discussion and debate
- Talk Boxes sent home
- Retelling stories and poems
- Expressing opinions and justifying ideas
- Listening to stories read aloud
- Presenting ideas to different audiences
- Taking part in school performances
- Responding to different kinds of texts
- Talking to visitors in school
- Listening to ideas and opinions of adults and peers
- Role-play and other drama activities across the curriculum.

- Use dramatic techniques, including work in role to explore ideas and texts
- Create, share and evaluate ideas and understanding through drama

Reading

At St. Pius Xth RCVA Primary School, reading is a high priority because reading skills are an integral part of pupils being able to access learning throughout the curriculum.

In order to deliver the above, we will meet the National Curriculum objectives. Pupils will study a range of good quality and interesting fiction and non-fiction texts from a variety of genres. They will have the opportunity to read 'real' books and newspapers, posters, ICT based texts, on individual computers and interactive whiteboards, information booklets, banded guided reading materials, reading schemes and literacy use of media text.

Pupils will be provided with the following reading opportunities:

- guided reading
- shared reading
- regular independent reading
- home/school reading
- hearing books read aloud on a daily basis
- Accelerated Reader

In Key Stage One, pupils are given a reading book to take home which is appropriate for their current phonic ability. These are changed once a week and pupils are encouraged to read the book at least twice before it is changed. There is an expectation at St.Pius Xth RCVA Primary School that parents will try to read with their child every night.

In Year Two and Key Stage Two, pupils access the Accelerated Reader program. Pupils choose a book at their own level and read it at their own pace. When finished, pupils take a short quiz on the computer. Accelerated Reader allows staff to support and monitor pupils' reading practice.

Writing

At St. Pius Xth RCVA Primary School, we know the importance of pupils in becoming efficient and effective writers who are able to write appropriately for a variety of audiences. We will assist pupils in acquiring the knowledge and skills to communicate effectively within a range of contexts and to become aware of and appreciate the writer's craft.

English lessons will be planned in units of work, based on objectives from the National Curriculum 2014. will study one main book or several books on a theme each half-term or term. These books will provide essential modelling of excellent writing. Lessons will provide opportunities for the pupils to practice the skills needed to be a writer. Pupils will write at length at least once a week.

Pupils will be provided with the following writing opportunities:

- shared writing
- guided writing
- independent writing

- writing different text types and narrative styles
- writing in different curriculum areas
- collaborative writing
- writing related to own experiences and enjoyment
- writing from a variety of stimuli
- planning, drafting, editing and presenting
- using ICT

Handwriting

At St.Pius Xth RCVA Primary School, handwriting is taught explicitly and in short, frequent sessions using the Penpals Handwriting scheme. Because the effective teaching of handwriting is achieved through modelling, staff demonstrate letter formation and joins regularly. Pupils are supervised during practices.

Pupils in the Foundation Stage will be provided with opportunities to:

- Engage in activities requiring hand-eye coordination
- Use one-handed tools and equipment
- Draw lines and circles using gross motor movement
- Begin to form recognisable letters
- Use a pencil and hold it effectively to form recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed

At St.Pius Xth RCVA Primary School, pupils are introduced to joined handwriting, when appropriate, in Year One.

In Key Stage Two, pupils can earn Pen License when they have proven correct formation of letters, consistent fluidity and accurate joins.

Phonics

At St. Pius Xth RCVA Primary School, pupils will learn to read and spell through a programme of systematic synthetic phonics. Pupils will learn to recognise the graphemes in the English language, as well as the skills of segmenting and blending required to break up and build words to read and to spell.

In the Foundation Stage and KS1, phonics is taught daily in classes and activities are available for the pupils to practise their reading and spelling skills. In Key Stage Two, smaller phonics groups take place alongside whole class sessions focusing on spelling rules.