



## English Curriculum Statement

### Why is English important?

The development of speech and a varied vocabulary is a key life skill. Competence in English enables children to communicate effectively at home, at school and in the wider world and leads to improved life opportunities. Through our class assemblies and year group performances, children are encouraged to speak and perform in front of an audience and so develop their confidence, clarity and fluency. The skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing enable children to organise and express their own thoughts and to access the knowledge and ideas of others. We believe that a secure basis in literacy skills will give our children the tools they need to participate fully as a member of society and enable them to learn and develop their knowledge and skills to their highest potential.

### What is English like at St George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery?

At St George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery, we believe that a quality English curriculum should develop children's love of reading, writing and discussion. We are passionate about reading and we believe that 'Reading...is a kind of magic!' We provide time for children to secure the skills to interpret texts and understand key vocabulary, in order to foster a love and passion for reading. It should inspire an appreciation of our rich and varied literary heritage and promote high standards of language and literacy by equipping children with a strong command of the spoken and written word. We aim to promote a positive attitude to English and engender a life-long love of language and communication by learning about literacy skills through quality children's text and books that interest, inspire and excite readers. We want our children to read easily, fluently and with good understanding. We aim to develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information. We recognise the importance of nurturing a culture where children take pride in their writing, can write clearly, accurately and coherently and adapt their language and style for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences.

We want to inspire our children to be confident in the art of speaking and listening, using discussion in order to learn and being able to elaborate and explain their understanding and ideas clearly, making formal presentations, demonstrating to others and participating in debate. We want to ensure that all children acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and a knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language. Using these skills, our children are empowered to access the whole curriculum, build upon what they already know, learn independently and prepare for the world of work and other aspects of everyday life. We work particularly hard to develop a love of literature and to enable children to play a full and active part in their own development in spoken language, reading and writing so that they can reach their full potential.

### Ways to explore Spirituality in English

At St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery, we believe that our curriculum should provide opportunities for children to develop a love of learning, so that they go on to make a positive difference to themselves, their community and the wider world. We have developed a definition of what we believe Spirituality is:

**'Spirituality is...an understanding of how beliefs, values and experiences shape the identity of individuals, their spiritual disciplines and connections with life.'**

***'Never settle for less than your best'***

***Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' John 8:12***

Our English curriculum provides opportunities for spiritual development through/by:

- Phonics as empowerment – providing early literacy as a spiritual tool that gives children the voice to express their inner world and connect with others.
- Reading and engaging with a wide range of texts and using literature to explore the beauty of the natural world and cultures.
- Exploring Character Choices - discussing motives, emotions, and moral dilemmas to build empathy.
- Asking open questions – Why do you think? What if....?
- Exploring poetry to provide space for self-expression, allowing children to articulate emotions and thoughts.
- Quiet reflection in class reading areas and the library.
- Reflective writing – writing from a character’s perspective to understand different viewpoints.
- Persuasive writing for advocacy – writing about causes they believe in, standing up for justice based on their values.
- Drama – acting out dilemmas to explore moral and spiritual choices.
- Stillness and reflection – using drama to explore inner, quiet moments or powerful emotions.

#### **Opportunities to celebrate literacy**

National Poetry Day, World Book Day, Christmas Nativity performances, writing competitions, literacy focus weeks, visiting authors, library visits.

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