

Nova English Curriculum



The

N Navigating a path to a future full of possibilities

O Overcoming barriers to reach our very best

V Valuing and respecting our differences

A Aiming for the stars and chasing dreams

Way

A sky full of stars

We are Ambitious and Proud



Nova English Curriculum

Intent

At Nova we aim to unlock the potential in every child to be confident and expressive readers and writers. We believe English is at the heart of children's learning and an essential part of the culture of our schools. Through a purposeful, exciting and engaging English curriculum, we inspire children to develop the skills and knowledge that are needed to make the most of opportunities across the entire curriculum and beyond school.

We strive to embed a life-long love of reading and writing through the use of quality texts and topics. Children have the opportunity to experience, appreciate and critique a rich variety of literature, with an understanding of the writing process that has created it. In addition, children are given opportunities to be authors themselves as we want all children to communicate their knowledge, ideas and their emotions across the curriculum for a wide range of audiences and purposes. As speakers and listeners, our children are nurtured to be able to express their ideas and share and discuss them.

Implementation

In order to achieve our intent, English is threaded throughout our curriculum. First and foremost, we ensure that all children are able to read accurately and confidently through the teaching of systematic synthetic phonics using Read Write Inc. In addition, reading skills are taught explicitly from Reception to Year 6 to develop skills of fact retrieval, inference, summary, prediction, evaluating and comparing. Children read phonically decodable books linked to what they are learning in phonics and move on to Accelerated Reader books which are pitched at the perfect level of challenge. Developing a love of reading in our children is cultivated through a culture of enjoying a range of texts, which is made up of children's daily reading time, high quality year group authors and other events throughout the year such as Book Week.

At Nova, writing is taught progressively and we use the PKAT Trust 'Unlocking Writing Potential' framework. This allows children to identify the audience and purpose, explore and select vocabulary and draft and edit their own work following shared modelling. Writing is often linked to the wider curriculum or high-quality texts.

Talk is valued very highly at Nova. Pupils share their knowledge and ideas in pairs and groups and pupil talk should always outweigh teacher talk in every lesson.

Impact

Our English curriculum is sequenced and planned to demonstrate progression and ensure all pupils will make good progress from their starting point. By the end of Year Six, pupils will understand a range of text types, read fluently and write in a variety of styles appropriate for the purpose and audience, use a wide range of vocabulary whilst developing their creativity and critical awareness of texts. Most importantly we aim for them to leave Nova with a love of reading and writing which they can do with confidence and understanding. We believe that if children are keeping up with the demands of each lesson, that they are making good or better progress.

We also measure the impact of our English curriculum in the following ways:

- Key skills for writing designed to consolidate prior learning at the beginning of each lesson and to allow teachers to address gaps in knowledge

- Pupil's books and pupil discussions about their learning.

- Teachers discussing learning with pupils in the lesson and reflecting where additional support or challenge may be needed.

Our English curriculum is also planned in a way which promotes the cultural capital of all our children. We enhance our curriculum especially for the most disadvantaged by organising live author events and visitors, and organising days which focus on key literary events. We also provide additional opportunities such as school trips to enrich pupil's understanding and provide first-hand experiences they can use in their writing.