



English Intent Statement

At Norden Community Primary School we believe that literacy is an essential life skill and we are committed to enabling our children to become lifelong readers, writers and speakers.

The key to our strategy is the importance we place on fostering a love of reading, enriching children's learning through carefully designed teaching activities that utilise imaginative stories and thought-provoking texts.

Children in Early Years and Key Stage 1 follow a rigorous Phonics scheme (All Aboard) which introduces phoneme and grapheme correspondence. Children are taught to blend sounds to read words, and segment words to spell. All our children take home reading books which directly match the current phonics teaching. Letter formation is taught alongside as each new letter is introduced.

We believe the skill of reading enables children to develop their learning across the wider curriculum and lays the foundations for success in future lines of study and employment. We recognise the importance of taking a consistent approach across the school to the teaching of reading in order to close any gaps and to target the highest possible number of children attaining the expected standard or higher. In Early Years and Year 1, our children read books matched to their Phonics level and from Year 2 upwards, our children access Accelerated Reader which has a higher focus on comprehension while developing stamina for reading longer texts. This allows for accurate assessment of each child to ensure reading books are matched to their reading age.

We will share a wide range of writing genres through The Write Stuff from Nursery to Year 6, enabling our children to write for a range of purposes whilst enjoying this process. We nurture a culture where children take pride in their writing, can write with clarity and accuracy and can adapt their language and style for a range of contexts. We aim to lay the foundations for lifelong writers. We follow the No Nonsense Spelling programme which ensures children have the opportunity to learn and practise spelling patterns and key words for their appropriate year band. We expect children to apply learnt spellings within their independent writing.

Through our reading and writing programmes, we introduce wider and challenging vocabulary to all year groups. We model the use of new vocabulary and ensure the children are applying this within writing and speaking. Various strategies are used to investigate new vocabulary in reading activities and we ensure children understand all new vocabulary.

We believe our children should be encouraged to become clear and confident speakers. We provide a range of experiences across each year group to perform in front of others. These include Reader's Theatre, opportunities for choral and class reading in Guided Reading sessions and within all other curriculum areas. All year bands are be involved in productions which include Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Summer performances. Visitors are invited into school to encourage collaboration between pairs, groups and classes of children. All staff model correct spoken English and encourage children to follow this lead.

We have high expectations of all children and we encourage children to challenge themselves, persevere and aspire to achieve success, always 'being the best they can be.'