

English

English is a core subject of the National Curriculum and at St. Dunstan's it is integral to all of our learning. We aim to inspire enthusiasm for reading and writing and maximise opportunities to develop children's speaking and listening skills.

In reading we aim to nurture enthusiasm and a love of stories, poetry and drama as well as non-fiction and media texts. Early reading is taught through phonics. Oxford Reading Tree is used as our main reading scheme. Our phonics teaching is supported by the use of Jolly Phonics, Big Cat Phonics, Read Write Inc., and Letters and Sounds. Running alongside decoding skills, pupils are taught to retrieve information, make predictions, infer and deduce meaning and to express preferences. The children engage in regular guided reading sessions and independent reading.

The children's love of reading is boosted by events such as World Book Day and visits by authors. Our well stocked library is regularly used by adults and children to support the children's learning both at school and at home.

Through speaking and listening children learn how to explore and express ideas and feelings and develop an increasing awareness of their audience. Drama and role-play are used to explore issues, texts and ideas.

The St. Dunstan's approach to the teaching of writing is to support our children to become confident learners, using their literacy skills in creative and imaginative ways. The children explore a range of genres and adapt their own writing to encompass the features of different types of text. All written work is underpinned by secure basic skills in grammar, punctuation and spelling. Our weekly 'Big Write' sessions give pupils the opportunity to apply the skills they have previously learnt in an extended piece of written work. Children are taught how to edit and improve their writing. Cursive handwriting is taught throughout the school. The children take pride in the presentation of all the written work they do.