

Intent, Implementation, and Impact Statement for English

This statement outlines Highfields' approach to English, aligned with Ofsted's most recent inspection framework. It focuses on the intent, implementation, and impact of the English curriculum to ensure consistently high standards in English language and literacy education.

Intent

The intent of the English curriculum is to provide a cohesive, comprehensive, and inspiring learning experience that equips pupils with the necessary language skills to become confident communicators, critical thinkers, and lifelong readers and writers. The key objectives of the curriculum are to:

- Provide opportunities for pupils to develop a deep and secure understanding of the English language and its structure.
- Foster a love for literature and promote reading for pleasure.
- Enable all pupils to become fluent and effective communicators, both in spoken and written forms.
- Encourage pupils to think critically, analyse information, and express their thoughts and ideas with clarity.

Implementation

Creating a Language-Rich Environment

The school creates a diverse and language-rich environment that provides extensive exposure to quality texts, media, and spoken language. This is achieved through:

- Establishing a well-stocked library and reading areas in every classroom, ensuring a wide range of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry books appropriate for different age groups.
- Regularly updating and expanding the resources available, including contemporary literature and inclusive texts that reflect the diversity of pupils' backgrounds and experiences.
- Displaying and celebrating pupils' written work, book reviews, and recommendations throughout the school, fostering a culture of pride and achievement in literacy skills.
- Providing access to technology, such as tablets or computers, to enhance learning through digital resources and e-books.
- Promoting regular visits to local libraries and engaging with visiting authors or professionals from the literary community.

High-Quality Teaching and Learning

The school consistently delivers high-quality teaching and learning experiences that cater to the needs and interests of all pupils. This is achieved through:

- Ensuring teachers have strong subject knowledge and pedagogical expertise, continuously updated through targeted professional development opportunities.
- Planning and sequencing lessons effectively, building on prior knowledge and challenging pupils appropriately.
- Providing a balance of whole-class, group, and individual activities to cater to different learning styles and abilities.
- Incorporating speaking and listening activities across the curriculum, encouraging discussion, debate, and spoken language development.
- Using a range of assessment strategies to identify individual learning needs, providing timely and targeted intervention where necessary.

- Regularly providing constructive feedback to pupils, promoting self-reflection, and guiding the next steps in their learning journey.

Developing Phonics and Spelling Skills

The school places a strong emphasis on explicit phonics teaching and the development of spelling skills. This is achieved through:

- Following a systematic synthetic phonics program, the 'Little Wandle' programme, ensuring consistency and continuity in teaching phonics across the school.
- Providing daily phonics sessions in Key Stage 1 and targeted interventions for pupils who require additional support.
- Using a variety of multisensory resources, including interactive phonics games and manipulatives, to engage pupils and consolidate their phonic knowledge.
- Implementing a structured approach to teaching spelling, incorporating regular, relevant and purposeful practice, and explicitly teaching spelling patterns, rules, and strategies.
- Encouraging pupils to apply their phonics and spelling skills across the curriculum, promoting independence and confidence in written work.

Promoting Reading for Pleasure

The school fosters a love for reading and promotes reading for pleasure both within and beyond the curriculum. This is achieved through:

- Implementing regular, dedicated reading sessions where pupils can enjoy a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts.
- Encouraging silent reading and providing opportunities for pupils to discuss and recommend books to their peers.
- Engaging with a range of authors, including hosting author visits and participating in book-themed events and competitions.
- Organising regular opportunities for pupils to borrow books from the school library and providing support for parents to promote reading habits at home.
- Celebrating reading achievements through initiatives like book clubs, reading corners in classrooms, and displaying the work of the Reading Ambassadors.

Impact

The school's tracking and assessment measures show that:

- Pupils make at least expected progress in all areas of English from their starting points, achieving good levels of proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills.
- Pupils' confidence and enthusiasm for English is evident, both in academically-focused tasks and in their enjoyment of reading and discussing literature.
- Pupils are eager to participate in oracy opportunities, engaging in debates and discussions, articulating their thoughts confidently, and actively listening to their peers.
- Pupils' writing at the expected standard and beyond demonstrates a rich vocabulary, correct grammar, and a range of sentence structures, as well as clear expression of ideas and purposeful composition.
- Pupils' positive attitudes towards reading in their higher levels of independent reading, improved comprehension skills, and a broader knowledge of literature.
- Pupils develop an appreciation for different genres, authors, and cultures through their exposure to a varied and inclusive range of texts.

In conclusion, Highfields' approach to English ensures that pupils develop a strong command of language, a lifelong love for reading, and the ability to communicate effectively across various contexts. Through a language-rich environment, high-quality teaching, targeted skill development, and a focus on reading for pleasure, the school successfully achieves its intent and creates a positive impact on pupils' learning outcomes in English.