

English for the Year 6 Learner in St Paul's



Approach

At St Paul's Catholic Primary School, we aim to ensure that all children learn to read, write and communicate successfully. We want all pupils to achieve their full potential so that they not only develop these important life skills and take their place in society, but also that they learn to love reading, writing and communicating and fully appreciate what joy these skills can bring.

In English lessons, children are taught speaking, listening, reading and writing skills through studying a variety of styles of writing (genres). Teachers follow the Teaching Sequence for Writing, which means that children will firstly be taught to read and understand the text, then practise the skills of the style of writing (including grammar) and apply it to their own writing.

The Primary National Curriculum statements will be taught through the modules below.

Y6 English Coverage

The Year 6 English curriculum consists of the following modules. World war II, A beating Heart and Frozen Planet.

We will write: Biographies, Reports, Narrative writing, Explanations, Letters, Persuasive writing and discussion.

Key poets/authors your children will encounter are: Carol Ann Duffy, Robert Louis Stevenson, Shakespeare, Rudyard Kipling, Morris Gleitzman, Michelle Magorian, Shirley Hughes, Robert Swindells, Elizabeth Laird, Natalie Babbitt

Curriculum Content

Speaking and Listening

Children will be taught to discuss their learning and to develop speaking skills. They will become more familiar with and confident in, using language in a variety of situations, for a range of audiences and purposes. They will, for example

- Develop their understanding of a subject through discussions, learning to give their opinions and listen to other viewpoints.
- Speak clearly and in different ways for drama, formal presentations and debate.
- They will prepare work orally, through drama and role play, discussing, rehearsing and recording their ideas.

Reading

This part of the curriculum is broken down into 'word reading' and 'comprehension'.

Word reading will not be directly taught, except where individuals need support. Instead, children will be encouraged to work out unfamiliar words that they meet. They should use their knowledge of word roots and word families to help them to understand new words. Children will be taught key comprehension skills to enable them to read, understand and enjoy a wide range of books. Year 6 will have the opportunity to read and discuss a wider range of fiction, poetry, plays and non-fiction. They will, for example:

- Identify and discuss themes and conventions across a wide range of writing
- Predict what may happen based on evidence and clues given
- Give responses to texts and recommend books to peers, giving reasons for views and choices
- Use clues from the text to work out characters' feeling, actions or motives and give evidence to back their conclusions
- Discuss and evaluate how authors use language (including figurative language) and consider the impact on the reader.
- Compare different texts

This is taught through guided reading sessions, whole class texts, games, comprehension lessons and using exciting physical reading strategies. It is really important that children read regularly at home and talk about what they read.

<http://booksforkeeps.co.uk/> is a useful website which reviews new literature for children.

Key Texts: Recommended by Herts for Learning for Year 6 are:

Fantasy Skellig – David Almond The Various – Steve Augarde Artemis Fowl – Eoin Colfer Inkheart trilogy – Cornelia Funke Coraline – Neil Gaiman The Weirdstone of Brisingamen – Alan Garner Pure Dead Magic – Debi Gliori Wolf Brother – Michelle Paver Truckers – Terry Pratchett The Spiderwick Chronicles – Lynne Reid Banks Goblins series – Philip Reeve Wonderstruck – Brian Selznick The Amulet of Samarkand – Jonathon Stroud The Hobbit – J.R.R. Tolkien The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making – Catherynne M. Valente Tanglewreck – Jeanette Winterson	Science Fiction Among the Hidden – Margaret Peterson Haddix Double Identity – Margaret Peterson Haddix Maphead – Lesley Howarth The Giver – Lois Lowry Other Worlds: 10 Amazing Sci Fi Stories – Rick Supernaturalist – Eoin Colfer Grinny: Grinny and You Remember Me – Nicholas Fisk Riordan ed. Timesnatch – Robert Swindells Hydra – Robert Swindells Chilling Stories The Graveyard Book – Neil Gaiman Uncle Montague's Tales of Terror – Chris Priestley Horowitz Horror – Anthony Horowitz Breathe – Cliff McNish At the Firefly Gate – Linda Newberry Chill – Alex Nye Tales from the Tunnel's Mouth – Chris Priestley Tales of Terror From the Black Ship – Chris Priestley Marianne Dreams – Catherine Storr
War Diary of Anne Frank Warboy – Michael Foreman Once/Now/Then/After – Morris Gleitzman	Adventure Noah Barleywater Runs Away – John Boyne Ruby Holler – Sharon Creech Danny: the champion of the world – Roald Dahl

<p>Goodnight, Mr Tom – Michelle Magorian War Horse – Michael Morpurgo At the Firefly Gate – Linda Newberry Johnny and the bomb – Terry Pratchett My Friend the Enemy – Dan Smith The Machine Gunners – Robert Westall Carrie's War – Nina Bawden Doodlebug Summer – Alison Price Soldier Dog – Sam Angus</p>	<p>The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane – Kate DiCamillo Stormbreaker – Anthony Horowitz The Devil and his Boy – Anthony Horowitz Journey to the River Sea – Eva Ibbotson From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler – E. L. Konigsburg Outlaw: the Legend of Robin Hood – Tony Lee The Ghost of Thomas Kempe – Penelope Lively Mortal Engines – Phillip Reeves Varjak Paw – S. F. Said The Invention of Hugo Cabret – Brian Selznick Wonderstruck – Brian Selznick</p>
<p>Mysteries Chasing Vermeer – Blue Bailliett The Crossroads – Chris Grabenstein Silver Fin – Charlie Higson The Case of the London Dragonfish – Joan Lennon The Sign of the Black Dagger – Joan Lingard Magnus Finn and the Selkie Secret – Janis Mackay Out of the Depths – Cathy MacPhail Flood and Fang – Marcus Sedgwick Tuck Everlasting – Natalie Babbitt</p>	<p>Animals The Midnight Fox – Betsy Byars The Tale of Despereaux – Kate DiCamillo Charlotte's Web – E.B.White Flush – Carl Hiaasen One Boy and His Dog – Eva Ibbotson A Coyote in the House – Elmore Leonard The Call of the Wild – Jack London Going Home –Cliff McNish Why the Whales Came – Michael Morpurgo War Horse – Michael Morpurgo Catscape – Mike Nicholson Wolf Brother – Michelle Paver The Outlaw Varjack Paw – S.F. Said Black Beauty – Anna Sewell</p>
<p>Humour The Meanwhile Adventures – Roddy Doyle Boom! – Mark Haddon Ribblestrop – Andy Mulligan Goblins series – Philip Reeve Holes – Louis Sachar There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom – Louis Sachar A Boy and a Bear in a Boat – Dave Shelton</p>	

Writing

Writing is developed through teaching the following:

Spelling: Children should learn to spell new words correctly and have opportunities to practise spelling skills. They will be taught spelling patterns and conventions, and draw on their knowledge of word families and roots to help them spell new words correctly. They will continue to practise and use the words included in Appendix 1 of the National Curriculum for years 5 & 6. Children will be expected to use a dictionary and thesaurus. Please help your child to learn their spelling list and also learn the rule that applies.

Handwriting: Pupils will continue to be taught handwriting in order to increase speed, fluency and legibility.

Composition (structure): This includes vocabulary, grammar and punctuation. To develop their composition skills, the children will be taught to

- Plan, draft, compose, edit and evaluate their writing
- Use a wide variety of punctuation and grammar features with confidence

- Refine their grammar and vocabulary to further develop the effectiveness of their writing
- Use a wider range of techniques to build detail into their writing and ensure it flows smoothly throughout the sections of a piece.
- Build on their understanding of the differences between Standard and non-Standard English, and will also focus on how to achieve different levels of formality in their spoken and written language.
- Adapt writing for a range of purposes and audiences as part of their work across the curriculum. In year 6 this will include formal and informal letters to, for example, the local Member of Parliament or characters within stories; explanations of science experiments; stories for younger children and book reviews for the library.

Grammar will be taught throughout the writing process and teachers will follow the terms and concepts of Appendix 2 of the National Curriculum.

Should you wish for a more detailed explanation, please follow this link to the [Primary National Curriculum document](#)