



Approach to Phonics and Reading

English

At Ark John Keats Academy we believe that English is central to successful living and learning. We fully support the idea that English skills are a gateway for cultural, emotional, intellectual and social development and all language skills are essential for full participation as a member of society. We believe that the study of Literature develops a child's ability to listen, speak, read and write for a wide range of purposes. Every teacher actively promotes and supports the development of these core skills in a variety of meaningful contexts in all curricular areas. The pupils are enabled to express themselves creatively and imaginatively as they become ever more enthusiastic and critical readers of stories. In Key Stage 2, English is taught by English Specialist Teachers, as we believe this is the best way to deliver a rigorous and aspirational curriculum.

The aims of the English curriculum are to provide all pupils with the opportunity to:

- Develop an enjoyment of learning through practical activity, exploration and discussion.
- Develop confidence and competence in the skills of speaking and listening, reading and writing.
- Develop the skills of communication through speaking and listening in a range of contexts.
- Develop the range of skills required in reading in order for pupils to read for meaning, understanding and enjoyment.
- Express opinions, articulate feelings and formulate responses to a range of texts, both fiction and non-fiction, using appropriate technical vocabulary.
- Foster an interest in words and their meanings, and to develop a growing vocabulary in both spoken and written form.
- Enjoy and engage with and understand a range of text types and genres.
- Be able to write in a variety of styles and forms showing awareness of audience and purpose.
- Develop their powers of imagination, inventiveness and critical awareness in all areas of literacy.
- Use grammar and punctuation accurately.
- Understand spelling conventions;
- Produce effective, well-presented written work.

Reading and Writing

Pupil learning experiences are enriched by experiencing and understanding a variety of different genres over the course of their time at Ark John Keats; where appropriate, writing is linked to topic work, particularly in the Early Years and Key Stage 1. Experiencing and understanding of genre is achieved through reading, speaking & listening and writing. These genres are to ensure our pupils gain a broad range of writing experiences. English is mapped in half-termly blocks to ensure coverage of identified genres across each Key stage. In line with our whole school curriculum policy this incorporates revisiting

genres to ensure consolidation and depth before breadth. The curriculum offers a wide selection of texts, narrative, poetry and non-fiction, and also draws upon different levels of accessibility within one unit to allow for children's own levels of attainment and personal preferences.

Our approach to the teaching of Phonics

At Ark John Keats Academy, we follow the Read Write Inc. *program*, developed by Ruth Miskin. This program provides a structured and systematic approach to teaching phonics. It is used by more than a quarter of the UK's primary schools and is designed to create fluent readers, confident speakers and willing writers.

This program meets the high expectations of the National Curriculum and uses individualised effective assessments to accelerate every pupil's progress, supported through ability streamed groupings, preparing them for the National Curriculum Tests.

We understand that for every pupil in our academy to read successfully they need to have a strong phonetic knowledge, recognising all of the graphemes; decoding and blending effortlessly and reading with fluency and expression. The grapheme-phoneme correspondence (skills used in reading), includes identifying and reading various digraphs (two graphemes, one phoneme) and trigraphs (three graphemes, one phoneme) with confidence.

To help embed these phonetic skills, develop a love of reading and prepare pupils for the phonics screening check in Year 1, we have put together a range of phonics teaching resources followed holistically by all staff teaching phonics.

We put great emphasis on the following aspects:

- Daily phonics lessons in Nursery (15min), Reception (45 mins -1 hour) and Year 1 (1hour).
- Simple assessment, clear tracking and straightforward grouping so every pupil learns rapidly at the right level.
- Integrated comprehension, writing, grammar, spelling, vocabulary and handwriting.
- Engaging partner work, role-play and drama enabling every pupil to participate during the lessons.
- Story Time and Poetry Time to develop pupil's knowledge of traditional tales and a wide range of poetry.
- Sustained Professional Development from both Ruth Miskin as well as in school training to create an outstanding team of teachers.
- One-to-One tutoring and additional 'Pinny-Time' reinforcing phonetic knowledge for pupils finding phonics challenging.