

# English - Writing

## Curriculum Intent

*'English has a pre-eminent place in education and in society. A high-quality education in English will teach pupils to speak and write fluently so that they can communicate their ideas and emotions to others and through their reading and listening, others can communicate with them.'*

*(National Curriculum, 2013)*

At Green Ridge, we believe that English is a fundamental part of a child's learning journey. It allows children to communicate effectively with others through speaking and listening, and writing gives voice to our inner thoughts and allows us to share them with others. It is an important part of **communication** that can transcend time and is a way to pass stories from generation to generation. Writing is the framework for our communication and we encounter it in our lives daily.

We believe that pupils should leave primary school confident in all **elements of English**:

- Acquire a wide vocabulary
- Competent speaking and listening skills
- Write clearly, accurately and coherently
- Adapt language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences
- Elaborate and explain their understanding and ideas clearly
- Transcription (spelling and handwriting)
- Composition (articulating ideas and structuring them in speech and writing)
- Spelling, grammar and punctuation

Pupils can acquire these skills sequentially over their time at Green Ridge, being introduced in the youngest of year-groups in ways in which the children can relate to. We recognise that the elements of writing must be explicitly taught and defined, as well as learned through the vehicle of wider **English appreciation and history**.

English is an area that is essential to all subjects taught at school, and all aspects of a child's life beyond school. It is the basis of effective communication of ourselves and with others. It offers pupils a range of learning skills that can be applied in many other areas of learning, such as:

### English in **Maths**

Verbal and written reasoning require pupils to explain their understanding and ideas clearly. These are essential skills in Maths and pupils will need effective speaking and written skills to be able to do this. Our pupils will work together and communicate their ideas effectively when problem solving to help each other in this.

### English in **Science**

New and complex scientific vocabulary will be introduced as pupils move through the school, and this will increase as they go into secondary school. Our pupils will learn new vocabulary daily to expose them to some scientific vocabulary and support them in understanding scientific concepts. Strategies will be needed to tackle the new vocabulary they will come across. Scientific writing is one form of writing that needs to be taught explicitly as pupils will need to adapt their language and style for this particular purpose.

### English in **Theme**

In History, our pupils will experience more new vocabulary and experience different points of view. They will use their speaking and listening skills to act out scenarios and debate each other. They will write for particular purposes and appreciate literature from different periods of history. In Geography, our pupils will need to describe and understand various places and explain their understanding clearly.

### English in **Physical Education**

Communication is key in team sports and this relies on effective speaking and listening skills. Dance is a form of communication and our pupils will reflect on the music they hear and create responses to that.

### English in **the Arts**

Music requires pupils to listen to, understand and explain their thoughts of certain pieces. They may also need to write lyrics and interpret musical vocabulary. Drama relies on effective expression of thoughts and ideas. Our pupils will learn to appreciate different works of literature, including plays, and act these out through the use of drama. In Art, our pupils will compare artists and write their ideas and thoughts down clearly and coherently.

### English in **Computing**

Coding is a language that our pupils will learn throughout their time at Green Ridge and this relies on our pupils understanding the English language first to apply this knowledge to the unique language of computers.

### English in **Religious Education and SMSC Education**

Our pupils will explore different religions and different points of view, explaining these verbally and in written form. They will look at important texts from different religions and interpret these. Verbal and written expression of thoughts and ideas is essential in SMSC education.

English is in everything, but most of all, **English is about communication and understanding:**

For our children to be able to thrive in this world, they need to be able to communicate effectively. This means being able to confidently and clearly share their own thoughts and ideas on different subjects, communicate with others to build relationships and communicate their expressions of themselves. Writing is an important part of this communication and it allows our pupils to be creative and practise essential skills needed for their future.

In addition to this, English supports many wider educational skills and dispositions which we wish to teach and instil within the children at Green Ridge:

- English speaking and writing help to **develop creativity**: Pupils are able to experiment with language and grammar to express their creativity and develop new pieces of writing and new combinations of words that have never been done before.
- Pupils learn to **improve their work**: When writing, our pupils will need to write drafts and constantly edit and improve their work. This skill is something that they can apply to many situations and it builds resilience.
- A **sense of achievement**: Pupils can see progress in writing clearly and this provides them with a sense of achievement. They are able to share these written texts with others and this also provides them with a clear purpose and clear success.
- **Emotional development**: Writing has long been a way for people to express themselves through a range of ways, for example, journaling, blogging and writing narratives. It allows our pupils to build self-confidence, and even eliminate stress through mindfulness writing techniques.
- English **builds imagination and intellectual curiosity**: Introducing and understanding English in its various forms can help create a positive attitude toward learning and

curiosity. Our pupils will use their imagination to create new narratives and write them down to share with others.

- Pupils can **learn teamwork**: Many English lessons require pupils to work with others to review and edit their work and share their understanding of each other's work. They will also work together in acting out literature and responding through speaking and listening tasks.
- Pupils can **develop skills needed for future study and work**: Effective note-taking and being able to clearly set out and prioritise tasks will benefit our pupils as they leave us later on. They will also learn how to plan and use time effectively, all skills that are useful for their future careers.
- Having a **greater understanding of the world**: Our pupils will be exposed to a wide range of vocabulary and literature from different periods in time. This will support them in understanding these times as the written records reflect them.
- Skills around **persuasion, debate and writing for particular purposes**: Valuable oral and written skills will be learnt through the teaching of English. Our pupils will learn how to be persuasive and to debate with success. They will be able to use these skills in work and in their day to day lives.
- Understanding the importance of and having the chance to **leave an impact on the world and creating change**: Writing and expressing our thoughts verbally can help our pupils to create positive changes in the world. They can make their voices heard and empower themselves and others. Recent technology has allowed this to happen even more and it is vital that our children understand how they can use their voices, self-expression and wide range of English skills to have a positive impact on the world and their futures. This could be in the form of videos, music, drama or in written forms through blogging, journalism, books or social media.

### In summary...

English is the **foundation of understanding and communication**, which not only runs through every interaction and subject in our pupils' day to day lives, but also **provides a voice** for our children. In order to prepare children for the next stage of their English education in Key Stage 3, at Green Ridge, we want the children to leave us with:

- A wide and growing vocabulary
- An appreciation for a range of English literature
- The ability to speak and listen to others (communicating effectively)
- The ability to write to suit a particular purpose or audience
- Skill in explaining their understanding and ideas
- Transcription skills including spelling and handwriting
- Composition skills including organisation and articulation of ideas
- The ability to experiment and create using the English language, supported by a strong understanding of spelling, punctuation and grammar