



**'Learning for a fuller life...'**

**TAVERHAM VC CE JUNIOR SCHOOL CURRICULUM  
OVERVIEW**

**English**

**INTENT**

English is both a subject in its own right and the medium for teaching across all subjects; for pupils, understanding the language provides access to the whole curriculum and further success in their academic careers and lives. To ensure that each child is able to access the language and reach their full potential, at Taverham Junior School, we aim to promote high standards of language and literacy through an engaging, purpose-led curriculum that allows children the freedom to be imaginative and creative whilst also learning to write with accuracy. Through learning to write for a wide range of purposes and audiences, we hope our children become confident writers able to apply their skills and knowledge both now, and in their later life.

To help our pupils become confident readers, we inspire an appreciation of our rich and varied literary heritage and a habit of reading widely through whole-class lessons, class readers, and WOW moments throughout the year. Our intent is to ensure that all pupils:

- read easily, fluently and with good understanding, supported by phonics where necessary
- develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information
- are exposed to a range of high-quality, inclusive texts
- acquire a wide and varied vocabulary
- are confident in the art of speaking and listening and to use discussion to communicate *in all areas of the curriculum*
- are able to write using their own ideas with confidence and independence, supported by appropriate resources
- develop a love of writing and to be able to express their thoughts and ideas clearly and creatively through the written word
- write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences
- re-read, edit and improve their own writing
- confidently use the essential skills of grammar, punctuation and spelling

<u>SKILLS</u>	<u>KNOWLEDGE</u>
<p>The specific English skills pupils learn, practice and demonstrate at Taverham VC CE Junior School can be found in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- English programmes of study: key stages 1 and 2 National curriculum in England (2013)</li> <li>- English Appendix 1: Spelling</li> <li>- English Appendix 2: Vocabulary, Punctuation, and Grammar</li> </ul>	<p>Pupils at TJS learn about the different purposes of writing (to inform, describe, entertain, persuade, and discuss) and explore the composition, language, and punctuation needed for such purposes through high-quality texts and writing modelled by the teacher. Vocabulary, punctuation and grammar knowledge is taught progressively through the school. Fluent reading, text comprehension and reading motivation is taught through whole-class reading lessons, class books, and special days. Medium term plans and curriculum documents specific to each year group detail what each year group will learn.</p>
<p><b><i>Support for SEN/disadvantaged children:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For those children struggling with decoding and who are unable to access other reading skills, phonics intervention is used. In Year 3, pupils’ phonics awareness is tested at the beginning of the year and support is given.</li> <li>• The library is organised into sections including a colour banded section for children who need support with comprehension/decoding and super-readables to offer children with dyslexic tendencies accessible high-quality texts</li> <li>• Our purpose-led curriculum allows the children to spend a full half term exploring one purpose in detail – this allows struggling children longer to practise and hone their skills whilst receiving help from the teacher.</li> <li>• Active working walls are used in every classroom and follow a whole-school approach to share ideas and aid children who are struggling.</li> <li>• Teachers and TAs offer support in class, supporting small groups or individuals.</li> <li>• Appropriate interventions are provided for children who struggle with key elements of the English curriculum like spelling and grammar, including time with the class teacher or teaching assistant.</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>Additional opportunities:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WOW days offer children the opportunity to engage with English in other ways including: theatre trips, acting workshops, fire-side storytelling, dress-up days and visits from authors/ special speakers.</li> <li>• As soon as they are able, fluent readers are able to go into the ‘free reader’ section of the library, separated by genre, not ‘levels’ to allow choice and promote a love of reading.</li> <li>• Where possible, tasks are differentiated to challenge all children, with hot and extra-hot tasks provided to push higher attaining children.</li> <li>• Our purpose-led curriculum allows the children to spend a full half term exploring one purpose in detail – this allows higher attaining children time to explore the purpose in detail, play with language, gain a greater-depth of understanding.</li> </ul>

## How does English contribute to the overall school aims?

*(Children who are: Successful and Happy; Confident and Resilient; Responsible; Caring; Respectful and Tolerant and Reflective):*

English at Taverham Junior School gives children the opportunity to become confident readers and writers by focusing on the skills and knowledge needed to read and write in a variety of contexts and giving them the time to explore these concepts in detail. Our whole-school cyclical approach to teaching means that children revisit each purpose every year, becoming more successful writers and more confident as a result. Lessons aim to be challenging, but still accessible for all children so that they can achieve and be successful. Teachers use a wide range of methods to offer whole-class and individual feedback, and time is dedicated to the reviewing and editing of writing to encourage children to be both resilient and reflective when checking their work. The use of WOW days aims to engage children and spark their interest, making English an enjoyable subject at TJS and by reading and teaching of high-quality texts from a range of authors, children are taught how to be responsible, caring, and tolerant through the art of storytelling.

### Next Steps:

- Improving reading motivation
- Increasing exposure to poetry
- Vocabulary walls