



## Menston Primary School English Curriculum Statement

### Quality of Education in English at Menston Primary School

The teaching of English is structured around the Early Learning Goals in Foundation and the National Curriculum in Years 1-6.

#### Speaking and Listening

We encourage our pupils to speak clearly and confidently and articulate their views and opinions. We teach children to express themselves orally in an appropriate way, matching their style and response to audience and purpose, listening and responding to literature, giving and receiving instructions.

Children develop the skills of participating effectively in group discussions. From Foundation to Year 6, all children are encouraged to:

- Justify ideas with reasons.
- Ask questions to check understanding.
- Develop vocabulary and build knowledge.
- Negotiate.
- Evaluate and build on the ideas of others.
- Select the appropriate register for effective communication.
- Give well-structured descriptions and explanations.
- Speculate, hypothesise and explore ideas.
- Organise their ideas prior to writing.

#### Reading and Phonics

Reading is fundamental to education. Proficiency in reading, writing and spoken language is vital for pupils' success. Through these, they develop communication skills for education and for working with others: in school, in training and at work. Pupils who find it difficult to learn to read are likely to struggle across the curriculum, since English is both a subject in its own right and the medium for teaching.

Reading is given the highest priority at Menston Primary School. It is the gateway to all other knowledge. Children who learn to read proficiently have better access to learning in every other subject they encounter in their school years. Reading for pleasure, often and with enthusiasm, lays the foundations for life; you interact, react, empathise and understand the tools to express yourself and interpret life.

*"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go."* Dr. Seuss.

From the very start of their time in school, children are taught to read using the Essential Letters and Sounds Systematic Synthetic Phonics Programme (SSP). This programme teaches children the link between the sounds of our language (phonemes) and the written representation of these sounds (graphemes) through the act of decoding and blending, or the spellings of the sounds contained within the English language.

In Foundation and Key Stage One, children are provided with books appropriate to their reading ability from a range of reading schemes. These are aligned to the SSP and children progress through books as their phonic-knowledge develops.

At Menston Primary School we have developed class libraries, which are full of high-quality, age-appropriate books. We expect that children will always have a book from their class library to read alongside a phonetically-decodable book for those children who are still learning the fundamentals of

reading. We allocate dedicated time for reading for pleasure every day – this includes time for children to read independently, with a friend, with an adult or for teachers to read to their class.

As well as reading for pleasure, children are taught to read and understand different text-types through guided reading lessons. These lessons often have a specific focus linked to VIPERS: Vocabulary, Inference, Prediction, Explaining, Retrieval and Sequencing/Summarising.

## **Writing**

At Menston Primary, we place a high value on writing and offer children many and varied opportunities to write for real audiences. Children's writing is regularly displayed in our local village library, published in the local Menston community newsletter and can often be found in other community venues. Our children are encouraged to:

- Develop the stamina and skills to write at length.
- Use accurate spelling and punctuation.
- Be grammatically correct.
- Write in a range of ways and purposes including narratives, explanations, descriptions, comparisons, summaries and evaluations.
- Write to support their understanding and consolidation of what they have heard or read.
- Use creativity and select language to interest the reader.

The curriculum for the early years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is organised into 7 areas of learning and Early Learning Goals (ELGs). The areas of learning that link specifically to English are:

- Communication and Language which includes listening and attention, understanding and speaking.
- Physical development in particular the moving and handling aspect of learning and development
- Literacy which includes reading and writing.

It is important that children understand that writing is a necessity for life and we ensure that every opportunity is taken to plan for meaningful cross-curricular writing across a range of genres. To ensure that there is a seamless link between reading and writing, teachers use high quality texts to engage and immerse children in specific genres. Pupils are taught to find key structures and grammatical features within texts and apply these in their own writing. We have developed a Menston Teaching Sequence for Writing which includes the relevant elements of the Education Endowment Foundation's Improving Literacy in KS1 and KS2.

## **Assessment**

Reading and writing are continuously assessed within lessons and through post-lesson marking. Writing is moderated by teachers within school and within our Two Valleys collaborative of schools. Training and guidance are given both in school and within the Local Area Partnership. Day to day and summative assessments inform future planning and children are expected to routinely edit and correct spelling and grammar errors.

Children undertake statutory assessments at different points throughout their time at primary school:

- Reception – baseline assessments within the first half of the autumn term and end of EYFS assessments in June
- Year 1 - phonics screening check in June
- Year 2 - reading and writing assessments in May and phonics screening (for children that didn't pass the screener in Year 1) in June
- Year 6 -reading and grammar, punctuation & spelling tests in May. Writing assessments in June