



**St John
and St Nicolas
Schools Federation**

**For the good of all
through curiosity,
creativity and love**

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1.2				

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St John and St Nicolas Schools Federation

English Policy

Federation Vision

At St John and St Nicolas Schools Federation, our vision is 'For the good of all – through curiosity, creativity and love.' This vision inspires everything that the federation does.

It applies equally to all the federation's policies with the intention that our policies impact as fairly and positively as possible to meet the needs of all members of our schools' community.

Curriculum Statement

Our federation is a journey for all of our children from the Early Years Foundation Stage to Year 6 and beyond. Our curriculum aim is for children's time with us to prepare them for life after our schools. Each child in our schools is recognised as an individual with their own ambitions, needs, skills and aspirations and it will be our schools' role to support and challenge each individual to achieve these.

Our curriculum will allow all children to develop the key skills of reading, writing and maths through a broad and balanced curriculum providing a wide range of experiences. Throughout our schools, we will promote equality and diversity and will provide every opportunity for children to develop resilience, confidence and enthusiasm, so becoming imaginative, creative and independent learners able to make informed decisions. Our rich curriculum, complemented by our nurturing approach will allow all our children to develop emotionally and spiritually.

We value all aspects of the school curriculum and will ensure our curriculum encompasses spiritual, moral, social, cultural, emotional and physical education.

How English fits into our Federation Curriculum

In our federated schools, we are committed to providing a high-quality education in English for all our children. We believe that the ability to speak, listen, read, and write effectively is essential for success in school and in life, and we strive to create a positive and inclusive learning environment that supports the development of these life skills.

Curriculum Organisation and Content for English

At our school, we prioritise the teaching of English both through dedicated lessons and integration across the curriculum. We have carefully structured our English curriculum based on the National Curriculum objectives, with the goal of providing a comprehensive and progressive education for all students. In addition to dedicated English lessons, pupils have opportunities to practice and apply their English skills in other subjects. We believe that this approach helps students to develop an understanding of the English language and to use their skills and knowledge in a range of contexts.

Approaches to Speaking and Listening

Our schools place a strong emphasis on teaching and modelling good speaking and listening skills. We provide regular opportunities for our pupils to practice and develop their oracy skills and teach them the skills needed for active, respectful listening. They are taught how to talk for different

purposes and have opportunities to present and perform to a range of audiences. Talk is used to support learning across the curriculum and paired and group discussions are used regularly in class.

Approaches to Reading

In our federation, we are dedicated to helping all of our children develop the skills and love of reading that will serve them throughout their lives. We believe that reading is a crucial foundation for academic and personal success and strive to instil a love of reading in all our students.

Our children, have a range of reading activities each day to support the development of their reading skills and love of reading. These activities include:

- Guided reading sessions in which students learn and practise key reading skills
- Shared reading to support and enrich learning in all subjects across the curriculum
- Small group and paired reading activities to target and practise key skills
- One to one reading intervention with an adult to target and practise key skills
- Story time and class novels to foster a love of reading
- Additional reading with a volunteer

We strive to offer a wide range of texts that reflect the diversity, interests and needs of our pupils and are committed to providing high-quality texts that inspire and challenge our students. All children have access to the school library and scheme reading books. Children are encouraged to choose and read books regularly in and out of school. Support from home is encouraged and guidance is offered to parents and carers through information booklets and presentations.

Approaches to Writing

Writing is an essential skill for success in school and in life. In our schools, we aim to help all children develop their writing skills and write with confidence and enjoyment for a range of purposes and audiences. We believe that effective writing begins as soon as the children start school and we value and foster writing across our whole school curriculum. We provide opportunities for children to express their ideas clearly and persuasively, and we strive to provide a supportive and inclusive environment that helps every child succeed.

Our writing journey begins by encouraging our children to be curious and creative with mark making. Key skills are taught through a sequence of writing units and also integrated across the whole curriculum. The writing units have been designed to meet the objectives outlined in the National Curriculum and help children develop their writing skills. Children are taught the key grammar and punctuation skills explicitly and are also given opportunities to apply these skills in their writing. They are given a range of writing activities to help them develop their skills and confidence, and have the opportunity to showcase their writing skills in a extended pieces of writing.

Further writing opportunities are integrated across the whole curriculum where children are encouraged to practise and apply the skills they have learnt. By providing children with a range of writing activities and opportunities, we aim to help all children develop the confidence and ability to write effectively for a range of purposes and audiences.

Approaches to Spelling and Handwriting

Our children are taught the importance of spelling and handwriting through a carefully sequenced and progressive program. These skills are taught through explicit instruction and reinforcement, and children are given opportunities to practise and apply what they have learned. Phonics is taught in

EYFS and KS1 and the children are encouraged to use a variety of strategies to spell words correctly. Handwriting is also a focus in the classroom and the children are given the chance to practise their handwriting skills on a regular basis. As they progress through school, children are expected to apply their spelling and handwriting skills to all their writing tasks across the curriculum.

Spirituality in English

Spirituality can be explored in every subject. In English, this includes appreciate the awe and wonder of our world and big questions through quality literature. English provides an opportunity for children's creativity to shine through and can support children to explore their place in the world.

Inclusion, Support and Challenge

At our school, we are committed to including and providing support to all of our students so that they can develop the English skills they need for life. Reading and writing are complex skills that require time and practice to develop, and we are dedicated to helping all of our pupils succeed.

If a child is struggling with reading or writing, we provide extra support through a range of interventions that are tailored to their needs. These interventions may include one-on-one or small group instruction and the use of specialised materials and resources.

We also provide a range of activities and experiences that are designed to challenge and stretch our pupils, helping them to grow and learn. This may include activities that require higher-level thinking, problem-solving, or creativity, as well as opportunities to engage with more complex or challenging texts.

Assessment

We use a variety of methods to assess English knowledge and skills, including both informal and formal assessments. Informal assessments, such as teacher observations and feedback, are ongoing and provide valuable information on children's progress and areas for improvement. Formal assessments for reading and writing are conducted on a termly basis and used to identify children's next steps in learning. By using a combination of informal and formal assessments, we can track children's progress and provide them with the support and guidance they need to succeed.

Monitoring

English is closely monitored to ensure that all children are making progress and receiving the support they need to succeed. Teachers continually monitor English within their classes through a range of methods, including observations, verbal feedback, and assessments. The English subject co-ordinator also monitors the teaching and learning of English by looking at lesson planning, examining children's books, and leading learning walks. Additionally, members of the school leadership team monitor English through lesson observations and data collection. By using a combination of these methods, we are able to ensure that English is being taught effectively and that all children are making progress in their learning.