

English Intent Statement

Through quality first teaching of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and National Curriculum Programmes of Study at Key Stage 1 (KS1) and Key Stage 2 (KS2), we aim to teach pupils to speak and write fluently so that they can communicate their ideas and opinions to others, and through their reading and listening, they can acquire knowledge and understand the ideas and opinions of others.

We promote high standards of language and literacy to enable children to thrive in their lives beyond primary school and to enable them to participate fully as a member of society. In addition to this, we aim to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum which encourages children to develop a love of literature and reading for enjoyment and helps children understand the world in which they live.

Reading	
Skills	Experiences
<p>At Ashleigh, we explicitly teach the essential reading skills of decoding, fluency and comprehension in line with the EYFS and National Curriculum to ensure children become successful readers who can read easily, fluently and with good understanding. This begins in the EYFS where children are taught to use phonics to decode words. As children become more confident at recognising the printed word, the focus moves from 'learning to read' to 'reading to learn.'</p> <p>High quality comprehension is drawn from linguistic knowledge and the child's knowledge of the world. We therefore choose texts which extend children's vocabulary and we explicitly teach the meaning of new words. High quality discussions within the classroom are facilitated in response to reading a wide range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Children are encouraged to read widely across a range of genres, time periods and cultures to develop their knowledge of the world in which they live and to establish an appreciation and love of reading. This is reflected in our Ashleigh Book List which identifies the key texts read in each year group in our school.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Weekly library visit for every child in our school library ✓ Visit to the local library ✓ Visit to a local book shop ✓ Daily class story time ✓ Regular whole class guided reading to enable high quality discussions about books ✓ World Book Day celebration including a 'Bedtime Stories' event for EYFS and KS1 and 'The Ashleigh Big Book Quiz' for KS2 ✓ Annual author visit ✓ Annual book fair to enable children to spend their book token on World Book Day ✓ Reading competitions and sponsored reads

Writing	
Skills	Experiences
<p>Throughout a child's time at Ashleigh, they will be taught the skills for effective composition of writing in line with the EYFS and National Curriculum. This includes planning, revising and evaluating their writing.</p> <p>This begins in the EYFS where purposeful mark making opportunities are promoted and children start to learn about the printed word. Phonics and SPaG are introduced to help children understand the mechanics of writing (see below).</p> <p>As children progress with their writing, they are taught to form, articulate and communicate ideas, and then organise them coherently for a reader. This requires clarity, awareness of the audience, purpose and context, and an increasingly wide knowledge of vocabulary and grammar.</p> <p>Writing skills are developed through evaluating 'model texts' which are designed for a specific purpose to form 'toolkits'. These toolkits identify the writing devices used for the specific purpose which help children understand how to develop and improve their own writing. Children will be taught to write for a wide range of purposes and will be able to adapt the tone and style of their writing to reflect their audience. These skills will be present across fiction, non-fiction and poetry.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Annual author visit ✓ Learning 'Talk for Writing' style texts ✓ Visit from a newspaper reporter ✓ Letter writing and receiving a reply ✓ Writing books for a specific audience ✓ Wymondham High School link: Year 3/ Year 9 writing project ✓ School trips to inspire writing ✓ Brilliant Club linked with Cambridge University (Year 5)
Phonics	
Skills	Experiences
<p>At Ashleigh we follow the Letters and Sounds phonics progression and teach this using the Storytime Phonics programme. This provides us with a clear and ambitious structure to teach children the sounds they need to become confident readers and writers. Starting in EYFS,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Listening to and reading real books which show how phonics is applied in real life contexts (Storytime Phonics) ✓ Multi-sensory approach to learn new sounds – caption actions ✓ Play based games

<p>children are taught to develop their phonological awareness through listening to sounds in the environment. This progresses to decoding to read and encoding to spell as children progress through Reception and Year 1. Our aim is for children to be secure at Phase 5 phonics by the time they finish Year 1.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Phonetically decodable reading books to take home and practise new skills ✓ Opportunities to apply new phonic skills in reading and writing activities
Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG)	
Skills	Experiences
<p>Effective spelling is reliant on knowing the relationship between sounds and letters (phonics) and understanding the morphology (word structure) and orthography (spelling structure) of words. Through weekly spellings from Year 2 – Year 6, children are taught these concepts.</p> <p>Opportunities to enhance children's grammar and punctuation knowledge arise naturally from their reading and writing. These skills are also taught explicitly through the creation of 'toolkits' and specific skills based lessons.</p> <p>In line with the National Curriculum, pupils will be taught to use Standard English and begin to understand the relationships between words and the effect that punctuation has on a sentence. This enables them to make effective punctuation and grammatical choices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Exploring 'Talk 4 Writing' style model texts to show how to apply skills effectively ✓ 'Read as a Reader' whole class guided reading ✓ Year 6 'Parents vs Children' grammar quiz ✓ Pixl therapies to support children with gaps in their knowledge
Handwriting	
Skills	Experiences
<p>At Ashleigh, we teach children to write fluently, neatly, legibly and with speed, in line with the National Curriculum.</p> <p>This begins in the EYFS where children start to learn how to form individual letters. By the end of Year 1, children should be able to form all letters, numerals and capital letters correctly. They then begin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Watch teacher model handwriting expectations ✓ Handwriting certificates for learning to form each 'handwriting family' in Year 1 ✓ Handwriting certificates for learning to form each handwriting join in Year 2

<p>to learn how to join letters in Year 2 and this skill is refined as children move through the school.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Achieving a pen licence in KS2 ✓ Hulk Handwriting intervention for children who need extra support
<h3>Speaking and Listening</h3>	
Skills	Experiences
<p>At Ashleigh, we strongly believe that spoken language underpins children's development across the whole curriculum, and developing skills in this area is vital in ensuring our children become skilled readers and writers. This is why we ensure continual development of children's confidence and competence in spoken language and listening skills. This starts in the EYFS where speaking and listening skills are promoted through high quality play opportunities.</p> <p>In line with the National Curriculum, children are taught to use discussion in order to learn. They develop skills in listening and responding appropriately and asking relevant questions to extend their understanding and knowledge.</p> <p>Throughout their time at Ashleigh, opportunities are also provided for children to speak audibly and fluently with an increasing command of Standard English to enable them to explain clearly their understanding and ideas.</p> <p>They develop these skills by participating in discussions, presentations, performances, role play, improvisations and debates.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Role play areas and small world play in EYFS and Year 1 ✓ Whole class, small group and partner discussions ✓ Presenting work to the class ✓ Performances to parents (Harvest, Christmas, end of Year 6) ✓ Class assemblies ✓ Drama ✓ Class debates ✓ Listening to and asking questions to school visitors