

English Curriculum



Our curriculum is the beating heart of our academies and is rooted in John 10:10.

"I came that they might have life and live it to the full"

Our children will flourish through experiencing a knowledge-rich curriculum which is both broad and balanced and fosters a love of learning, enabling all children to make connections and be well prepared for the next stage of their education.

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Curriculum intent for English: As communicators, our children will experience an English curriculum which is underpinned by oracy and language. Our children will build confidence as oral and written communicators who are fluent readers and are prepared for the next step in their education. The English curriculum will be language-rich, foster a love of our literacy heritage, encourage children to take pleasure in books and acquire knowledge across the broader curriculum. As writers, children will learn to craft texts for a variety of audiences and purposes and develop their authorial voice with an increasing knowledge of vocabulary and grammar which will equip them for the future.

Phonics and Early Reading

At St Michaels, we follow the validated scheme Read Write Inc which provides one clear route to reading. Phonics is taught discretely and daily with all staff following the scheme with fidelity. Our children learn to read and write effectively and quickly using the Read Write Inc. Phonics programme. We make sure that pupils read books that are closely matched to their increasing knowledge of phonics and the common exception words. This is so that, early on, they experience success and gain confidence that they are readers. Re-reading and discussing these books with the teacher supports their increasingly fluent decoding.

Alongside their decodable reading book, children's reading for pleasure is developed and encouraged by having high-quality books to share.

Reading

Once children have completed the Read Write Inc phonics programme, their reading fluency and comprehension is further developed through daily 'Whole Class Reading' lessons. All Whole Class Reading lessons are underpinned by high-quality fiction, non-fiction or poetic texts to provide a broad and balanced curriculum. We use DERIC (Decode, Explain, Retrieve, Infer and Choice) as a framework to enable children to meet the National Curriculum objectives and become successful readers.

To encourage children to take pleasure in reading, all classes have dedicated read aloud time where teachers share challenging texts with the class. In addition to this, every class has a book-rich reading environment for children to independently access. Once children have successfully completed their phonics programme, we have recommended reads for each year group to immerse children in high-quality texts to promote reading widely.



How we teach writing

The long-term overview indicates the writing purposes that children in each year group will experience, enabling them to become confident authors. Each time a purpose is taught or revisited, children's knowledge is deepened as they produce writing that is more sophisticated and cohesive, demonstrating their growing acquisition of what it means to be an author.

During a sequence of learning, children will create a main outcome that is an indicative example of the purpose e.g., a third person narrative when writing to entertain. At the beginning of each half term, children respond to an elicitation task, such as to write a letter to their local MP about a topical issue, to enable teachers to plan the sequence of learning. Following the elicitation task, children have daily opportunities to learn and apply the skills and knowledge from the relevant National Curriculum objectives during sentence stacking lessons. The chosen skills are taken directly from the National Curriculum and are taught iteratively across the year and within different purposes for writing.

Once children have been immersed in the purpose for writing, we apply aspects of Jane Considine's approach towards teaching writing based on the book, 'The Write Stuff'. A high-quality, rich text or other stimulus (such as a film) is used to structure children's writing. The teaching sequence for writing consists of two elements: experience lessons and sentence stacking lessons. In an experience lesson, teachers design experiences which will generate and immerse children in the vocabulary required. A sentence stacking lesson is broken down into three learning chunks: the initiate stage, where the focus is vocabulary acquisition in preparation for writing, the modelling stage, where the class teacher models a skill at sentence level within a context and finally, the enable stage where children immediately apply the taught skill into a cohesive piece of writing. This dovetails and is underpinned by the Trust 'How we teach' pedagogical approach based on Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction.



			Year 2			
	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Unit 1	Familiar settings Stardust – Jeanne Willis	<i>Traditional Tale</i> Little Red Reading Hood – Lucy Rowland	<i>Diary</i> The Great Fire of London – The Diary of a London Rat	<i>Adventure</i> The Building Boy – Ros Montgomery and David Litchfield	Non chronological report Habitats	Legends and fables The Crow's Tale – Naomi Howarth
Unit 2	Picture book narrative The Queen's Hat	<i>Poetry</i> If I were in charge of the world – Judith Viorst	<i>Recount</i> Neil Armstrong – Brad Meltzer	<i>Classic narrative</i> The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark – Jill Tomlinson	<i>Letters or postcards</i> This is how we do it – Matt Lamothe	<i>Poetry</i> Desk Diddler – Michael Rosen
			Year 3		•	
	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Unit 1	<i>Instructions</i> My Strong Mind – Niels Van Hove	<i>Traditional Tale</i> The Happy Prince – Jane Ray	<i>Letter</i> The Day the Crayons Quit - Drew Darwell	<i>Adventure</i> The Secret of Black Rock – Joe Todd-Stanton	Non chronological report Earth shattering events – Sophie Williams	<i>Myths and tragedies</i> Theseus and the Minotaur – Hugh Lupton
Unit 2	Explanation How a Robot Dog Works	Historical narrative Stone Age Boy Satoshi Kitamura	Product advert Skara Brae – Dawn Finch	Romance and comedies Blue Umbrella	<i>Diary</i> The Journal of Iliona – A Young Slave – Richard Platt	Poetry I asked the little boy who couldn't see
	·	•	Year 4			
	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Unit 1	<i>Explanation</i> Digestion Explanation based on Gut Garden	<i>Traditional Tale</i> The Princess and the Pea – Lauren Child	Holiday brochure Sicily	<i>Adventure</i> Journey – Aaron Becker	<i>Factual voiceover</i> Once Upon a Raindrop – James Carter	<i>Mystery</i> The Whale – Ethan and Vita Murrow
Unit 2	Newspaper report The Creature	<i>Poetry</i> Still I Rise – Maya Angelou	Product advert An alternative to plastic straws - Stroodles	<i>Science fiction</i> The Iron Man – Ted Hughes	<i>Diary</i> Secrets of a Sun King – Emma Carroll	<i>Playscript</i> The Plague
			Year 5			
	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Unit 1	Non chronological report Emperor Penguins	<i>Fantasy</i> The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr Morris Lessmore - Moonbot	Historical speech Refugees	<i>Journal</i> Mars Transmission	Science fiction Cosmic – Frank Cottrell Boyce	Debate Should We Feed Animals in National Parks?
Unit 2	<i>Biography</i> Hatshepsut Egypt	<i>Adventure</i> The Explorer – Katherine Rundell	Formal letter Kick – Mitch Johnson	<i>Diary</i> Scott of the Antarctic	Historical narrative I Believe in Unicorns – Michael Morpurgo	<i>Narrative poetry</i> The Highway Man – Alfred Noyes
			Year 6			
	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Unit 1	Non chronological report Origin of Species – Sabina Radeva	<i>Adventure</i> Kensuke's Kingdom – Michael Morpurgo	Formal and informal letters Letter to Mr Scrooge	<i>Recount</i> Letters from the Lighthouse – Emma Carroll	<i>Mystery</i> The Graveyard Book – Neil Gaiman	Balanced argument Screen Use
Unit 2	Postcard Postcard from Prison	<i>Film narrative</i> Paperman - Disney	<i>Speech</i> Greta – Greta Thunberg	Newspaper report Goldilocks	<i>Horror</i> A Monster Calls – Patrick Ness	<i>Narrative poetry</i> Moth – Isabel Thomas