



BUTTSBURY
JUNIOR SCHOOL

AN ACADEMY SCHOOL

Literacy Policy

Maximum Effort for Maximum Achievement

Aims of Literacy

At Buttsbury Junior School, our aim is to provide our children with as wide an experience of language as possible. We do this within a structured, progressive, balanced but varied programme. In this way, our children will have all the experiences that are necessary to become competent, confident users of language in all its forms.

Curriculum Intent

We have a broad and balanced literacy curriculum at Buttsbury Junior School where children are given the opportunity to master their learning by 'applying what they have learnt to a new situation'.

- We recognise the language skills that children have acquired and build on their unique language experiences.
- We plan to achieve continuity and progression through opportunities for children to use language for an increasing range of audiences and purposes. Our aim is for children to develop communication skills to a high standard.
- We aim to give our children opportunities to explore the power of language. We do this by giving them knowledge of its structure and to reflect on how meaning is made.

Curriculum Implementation

Units of learning are blocked, well sequenced and build on previous learning. Lessons ensure that progress is achieved through small steps, allowing children to develop their subject knowledge, consolidate skills and apply their learning.

At Buttsbury Junior school, learning in literacy may include:

- Opportunities to speak with confidence, clarity and fluency in appropriate forms of speech
- To speak and listen in both partner and group tasks in informal and formal contexts
- Use drama to explore characters' thoughts and motives in order to embed understanding
- Read core texts that cover a wide range of genres, authors and purpose and showing an understanding of what has been read
- Through explicitly taught comprehension lessons, children develop the reading skills allowing them to access texts and develop understanding
- To analyse high quality examples of texts: identifying features, language and grammatical structures to innovate own written ideas
- Spelling, punctuation and grammar lessons are explicitly taught and then children are encouraged to embed these rules through their writing
- Developing ideas through a cycle of: drafting, editing and publishing
- Developing a legible, joined cursive handwriting through explicit handwriting sessions
- Children are encouraged to explore writing through different genres and using the application of ICT to both research and present information

Curriculum Impact

Our curriculum encourages an ambitious attitude towards mastery in literacy. Teachers understand and respect each child has their own creative and individual author's voice. The clear learning sequence allows for children to explore a variety of genres, consider how literacy has developed through heritage and culture, developing grammatical structures which can then be later applied to their writing. The children are given opportunities to write across the curriculum, embedding their literacy skills: demonstrating a mastery approach. As a result of our literacy curriculum, children are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills for the next stage of their education at secondary school.

National Curriculum

At Buttsbury Junior School, teaching staff follow The National Curriculum 2014, which is broken into a Planning sequence of units for the teaching of English from Year 3 to Year 6. This is detailed in the long-term Literacy curriculum map, which is reviewed annually.

English is taught both explicitly and implicitly, through a combination of dedicated Literacy lessons, reading and spelling activities and through cross curricular links with other subjects. This ensures that children are given a context and a purpose for applying the specific skills and understanding that they have developed in other areas.

The National Curriculum 2014 is used throughout the school to provide a daily period of dedicated Literacy teaching time for all pupils. All year group classes are taught one hour of direct literacy per day. This incorporates all aspects of the agreed 'Non-Negotiables' for teaching. Teachers use professional judgement to ensure the learning objectives are followed and there is effective teaching and learning taking place.

The National Curriculum 2014 English document has three areas of focus; Spoken language, Reading and Writing. This covers learning objectives, programmes of study and level descriptors for children working in Key Stage 2. The units are organised into text type genres and these are based around three main categories; narrative, poetry and non-fiction. Buttsbury Junior School's units are planned into a teaching sequence of reading, speaking and listening and writing. Within the teaching sequence for each text type, we aim to deliver the seven teaching objective strands from the National Curriculum 2014:

- Spoken language
- Reading - Word reading and comprehension of a text
- Grammar and punctuation
- Writing transcription- Spelling and handwriting
- Writing composition

Spoken Language

Spoken language opportunities are explicitly covered in the National Curriculum 2014. Teachers need to give pupils confidence in themselves as speakers and listeners by showing them that they value their talk. Within classroom activities teachers encourage children to participate in speaking and listening activities to enhance their oral skills and creativity. We believe that these skills are essential for children to be able to formulate their own ideas. Spoken language skills are developed through explicit lessons in addition to use in cross-curricular contexts.

Planned activities may include: the language of discussion; the development of ideas for writing and drama activities to develop comprehension of reading.

Teachers should be aware that all adults in the school provide models of speaking and listening in interactions with the pupils.

Aims

Pupils will be taught to:

- speak clearly, fluently and confidently in a range of situations and settings
- listen sensitively to the views of others
- participate in group discussions
- use the main features of spoken Standard English
- think clearly about the needs of the audience
- learn to use language in an imaginative way and express feelings through drama and role play
- transfer skills learnt in literacy to all areas of the curriculum
- extend and develop vocabulary

This will be achieved by:

- providing a wide range of spoken language activities across the curriculum
- providing the opportunity for children to participate in a wide range of drama activities for a variety of audiences (including activities such as class assemblies and annual productions)
- organising activities where the children can evaluate their own contribution and that of others

Reading

Our aim is to encourage all our children to have a love of reading, and to read confidently and independently in a range of contexts with a wide range of texts. We support opportunities to read for pleasure and for information from a wide range of materials including: written texts, picture books, images and film. At Buttsbury Junior School, we use a wide variety of teaching strategies and opportunities across the curriculum to deliver the National Curriculum.

Teachers acknowledge the diversity of pupils learning styles and provide a balance in the approaches used to teach reading. Different methods are used according to the focus of the learning objective, they include:

- Individual reading
- Guided reading
- Shared reading

Aims

We aim to consolidate the skills that the pupils have developed at KS1. In addition, they should increase their ability to read challenging and lengthy written texts, analysing and discussing them with others, and enhance their semiotic (sign) reading skills.

Pupils will be taught to effectively decode a text through phonemic awareness and phonic knowledge; and word recognition and graphic knowledge.

We use the four key strands of reading comprehension: literal understanding, skills of inference, deduction and evaluation. Children are additionally taught:

- To give/explain the meaning of words in context
- To retrieve and record information/identify key details from fiction and non-fiction
- To summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph
- To make inferences from the text/explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text
- To predict what might happen from details stated and implied
- To identify/explain how information/narrative content is related and contributes to meaning as a whole
- To identify/explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases
- To make comparisons within the text.

Teachers ensure that the classroom is a supportive environment for reading by organising and planning for:

- daily reading of the class novel
- daily Class Comprehension lessons
- a range of texts always being available
- a variety of groupings for reading
- a provision for diversity and choice
- other people's involvement in reading
- availability of books that link with key themes.

Individual Reading

A wide range of structured texts, such as Collins Big Cat, Rapid Pearson, Engage Literacy and the Talisman series are provided for lower school readers (and those that require them in upper school) and pupils have easy access to their own choice of individual reading books

(within the constraints of the colour coded system). Once the children's ability has exceeded the structured colour scheme, children are encouraged to be 'Free Readers' and can choose from a range of Fiction and Non-fiction texts. The children use these books to take home and practise their reading skills with adults. Parents are encouraged to listen to their children read on a regular basis and to write positive and purposeful comments about their child's reading. Fiction books are housed in a classroom reading area, split in three levels of text. Non-fiction books and a further range of fiction books are easily accessible in the school library. Books are changed when necessary.

At Buttsbury Junior School the focus of reading skills shifts away from decoding using phonics, word recognition and simple comprehension towards more advanced reading skills, although children working below their chronological age are supported appropriately. The former helps to develop a deeper understanding of the structure, purpose and meaning of the increasingly complex texts they are encountering, and, ultimately, support the development of the children's writing skills. Consequently, as the children move through the school and their reading accuracy improves, the focus on individual reading lessens. Teachers seek to develop higher order reading skills through discussions and questioning during group and shared reading, and through evidence in their written work. Individual reading to an adult/teacher still takes place at KS2, according to need; with those children who need more support reading more regularly on an individual basis. Regular assessments in reading ensure that each child is directed to the correct level of reading material as appropriate to his/her reading age.

At Buttsbury Junior School, we actively promote reading for pleasure. Each classroom tracks and celebrates children who read regularly outside of school. In addition, a 'Reader of the Week' is chosen from each class and rewarded in Celebration assembly. We also run a Reading Challenge throughout each school year to encourage children to read a wider genre of texts. Awards are celebrated termly, with children able to achieve Bronze, Silver or Gold awards.

Shared reading

Shared reading is an integral part of literacy and can be used with texts in all curriculum areas. Shared reading is a whole class activity, which uses a common text e.g. a big book, poster, film or text extract, which can be read by pupils, class teacher or teaching assistant. The choice of text is linked to the genre that is being studied and will include examples of the key features of that text type. Teachers may use this session to model good reading practice, or to give pupils the opportunity to read to the class, perhaps as an informal assessment opportunity. Shared reading can be used to demonstrate word reading, comprehension, grammar and punctuation or vocabulary skills.

Class Comprehension

Class Comprehension is a structured lesson where pupils read the same text or extract. As in a literacy lesson, a Can I...? is set for sessions, taken from the National Curriculum 2014. Teachers use Class Comprehension to teach particular reading skills or investigate aspects of a text. Children can be asked to read independently, or in a small group, then to discuss their response to the section they have read. A particular focus of lessons is on developing children's ability to answer written comprehension questions.

Where a child, or group of children, is working below age-expected levels, intervention sessions for reading take place outside of the directed guided reading or literacy lessons. These take place on a regular, weekly basis and focus on specific skills to support the children to make accelerated progress. Individual classes also arrange for certain children to read on a regular basis to an adult in the classroom.

Class Novel

Each class has a class novel which the children read, in daily timetabled slots, over the course of a half term. The books are chosen to provide children with a wide exposure to

different classic, or popular author, as well as also supporting the work in their Literacy lessons. Teachers read to the children, picking out new and unfamiliar vocabulary and questioning children about the text.

Writing

The teaching of writing is a major focus at Buttsbury Junior School. Writing skills and techniques are taught both in their own right and also in relation to other aspects of English, such as spoken language and reading. While these skills are taught through dedicated literacy sessions, cross curricular links provide vital opportunities to apply them in planned, purposeful and realistic situations. We encourage each child to have a positive self-image as a writer, to show enjoyment, commitment and confidence. Good writing is praised, valued and displayed in a variety of ways throughout the school. A 'Writer of the Week' is chosen every fortnight in each class, alongside class merits, and the child's work is also displayed in the classroom. We ensure that boys and girls of all ability ranges have access to these awards. Emphasis on careful presentation is always encouraged.

The National Curriculum 2014 ensures that pupils cover both fiction, non-fiction and poetry writing styles. Children's writing is assessed through grammar and punctuation, writing transcription, including spelling and handwriting and writing composition. The use of good quality texts provides structures, themes and purposes for their writing. An awareness of audience is encouraged by all teachers and opportunities to write for a real purpose are used whenever possible.

We provide a number of different teaching strategies for developing writing skills;

- Modelled writing
- Shared writing
- Guided writing
- Independent writing

Modelled and Shared Writing

This enables teachers to:

- work with the whole class, to model, explore and discuss the choices writers make at the point of writing (rather than by correction), demonstrating and sharing the compositional process directly
- make the links between reading and writing explicit by reading and investigating how writers have used language to achieve particular effects, and using written texts as models for writing, e.g. through imitation and innovation in the early stages to understanding and using underlying structures and principles towards the end of Key Stage 2
- scaffold aspects of writing, e.g. development of sentence structure with carefully selected vocabulary
- focus on particular aspects of the writing process – planning, composing, revising, editing and redrafting

Guided Writing

During a Guided writing session, the teacher works with a group of children to support the transition from shared to independent writing in a specific genre or using particular skills. These sessions are also used to meet specific objectives and to focus on targeted aspects of the writing process.

Guided writing enables children to;

- rehearse sentence composition and word choices
- participate in composition with the teacher as editor or scribe
- focus clearly on the Can I...? and 'challenges' success criteria
- evaluate ideas and suggestions from other children
- transform a plan into a finished piece
- use a model as a basis for their writing
- work in a range of supportive strategies such as writing partners

- focus on a particular aspect of writing e.g. story structure, characterisation, description
- use AFL to address common errors with groups of children or extend more able writers, for example, with higher level punctuation.

Independent Writing

In addition to supported writing activities, we aim to provide opportunities for children to write independently, and for extended periods. We encourage the pupils to apply the knowledge and skills they have learnt throughout the unit of work. Modelled, shared and guided writing sessions are used to scaffold independent writing in both literacy lessons and other subjects across the curriculum.

Based on feedback from the children, independent writing activities take place over two consecutive lessons in order to allow children time to develop their ideas, an edit and redraft their work as appropriate.

Progression in Teaching Writing Skills

At Key Stage 2 pupils will be taught to:

- write to suit a particular purpose and in doing so broaden their vocabulary and use language and style appropriate to the reader
- use features of layout, presentation and organisation effectively
- develop their writing on paper and on screen. They will be taught to: plan, draft, revise, proof-read, present and evaluate their own work
- punctuate their written work correctly, using punctuation carefully for effect
- apply knowledge of spelling conventions, common letter strings and visual patterns
- spell the statutory spelling words for Year 3 & 4 and Year 5 & 6 accurately
- check their spellings using word banks, dictionaries and spell checkers; to know the word families, roots and origins of words to aid correct spelling; to know some of the differences between Standard and Non- Standard English usage
- understand word classes - nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, connectives, articles and conjunctions
- understand the features of different types of sentences including statements, questions and commands; use the grammar of complex sentences, including clauses, phrases and connectives; the purposes and organisational features of paragraphs.

Where a child, or group of children, is working below age-expected levels, intervention sessions take place outside of the directed literacy lessons.

Spelling

At Buttsbury Junior School children continue to develop their spelling skills, following on from the Letters and Sounds programme taught in Key Stage 1. Teachers cover the key objectives for each age group and ability range, focusing on the teaching of spelling rules. Spelling lists are set termly and are sent home with the children, as well as being available on the school website. Teachers use their professional judgement to ensure that children receive the correct curriculum coverage as outlined in the scheme of work as well as targeting areas for revision and consolidation. Spelling is taught at least twice a week, for 20 minutes, with an additional session at the end of the week to deliver a weekly spelling test.

Links are made between spelling and handwriting in order to develop children's muscle memory and visual recognition of spelling words.

Handwriting

Children continue with the handwriting programme started in Key Stage 1. This cursive scheme requires children to start each letter on the writing line, encouraging them to make the correct writing joins. Handwriting is taught at least twice a week, for 10 minutes. It is expected that children in lower school (and those who have not developed an accurate style

in upper school) should have additional handwriting lessons. The use of pens is introduced from Year 3 through the awarding of pen licences, and continues to be awarded in Year 4.

Computing

All pupils must have opportunities to work with ICT as part of the English curriculum. This can be either in the ICT suite, or in class for example the use of ipads or other recording devices.

Planning

Teachers use the National Curriculum 2014 to create their medium-term planning. Standard planning grids are used to record medium and short-term planning. Short Term Planning is saved on the staff shared server and reviewed weekly by the Deputy Headteacher and/or Assistant Headteacher,

Planning should aim to provide an equal balance between fiction and non-fiction types over the course of the year and, wherever possible, during the course of the term.

Spellings, Handwriting and Class Comprehension are undertaken outside of literacy lessons. Time is given for the clear formation of success criteria; separating the daily objectives (Can I...?) and the text type specific key features of each genre of writing. These success criteria are often created with the children.

Throughout all parts of the lesson, where appropriate, pupils are encouraged to take an interactive part in the lesson. We strive to ensure that there is 80:20 pupil talk to teacher talk within a lesson. Pupils will also be given the opportunities, depending on the nature of the lesson, to work in:

- ability groups
- mixed ability groups
- individually
- pairs

Assessment and Recording

All teachers assess, record and report progress in English in line with the school's Assessment, Recording and Reporting Policy.

Spoken Language

Spoken language is assessed at the end of each academic year, by the class teacher and reported to parents on the child's end of year school report.

Formative Assessment - Reading and Writing.

Teachers make regular on-going assessments of a child's reading and writing by:

- hearing individuals read
- teaching a focus reading or writing group
- shared reading sessions
- marking of written work
- matching to termly targets.

Summative Assessment-Reading and Writing

In addition to the above, the following summative assessment takes place throughout the school.

- Salford reading age tests in year 3 and 4 are completed twice a year. Children in year 5 or 6 working below age-expected levels are also assessed.
- Assessments take place in reading and GPS twice a year, using Headstart test papers three times a year in Years 3, 4 and 5. These results give a raw score and a scaled score conversion, based on 100 being the Expected end of year standard.
- SATs in Yr 6, including the use of past SATs papers.

- End of unit writing assessments in literacy books. A copy of the writing assessment grid is kept in a class assessment file. This is updated at the end of each taught unit of writing.
- Salford spelling age test in all year groups- twice yearly.
- Weekly spelling tests

Summative reading and writing assessments (teacher assessment) are entered onto the school assessment grids and analysed by the year group leader.

Reporting to parents

Current teacher assessments in writing, and recent test outcomes in reading and GPS, are reported to parents termly during parents' evenings and on the end of year report. Targets are also discussed with parents at these meetings.

The end of year report is written by the class teacher for every child and sent home to parents. In English the report adheres to the following guidelines:

- it summarises the child's performance since the last report
- it highlights positive achievement and progress made
- it identifies weaknesses and areas for improvement, where appropriate.

Mastery

Effective mastery in Literacy reflects independent learning, by all pupils of all abilities, which demonstrates creativity, imagination and innovation across a range of genres.

Blooms' questioning during lessons ensures that pupils can think deeply about a text or area of focus. Children are encouraged during debates and discussions to develop their responses and justify their opinions.

The use of high-quality texts and approaches in reading such as Class Novels and whole class comprehension is used to promote a love of reading. Pupils who are working at mastery level are able to confidently deduce and infer information and make connections across texts. Pupils also analyse author's intent and choice of writing techniques and can confidently explain the impact of these on the reader.

Planning longer sequences allows children to know a book inside and out, to look at how writers use language, sentence and text structure to impact on the reader and use them as models for their own writing.

When mastery is achieved in writing, children will demonstrate an awareness of purpose and audience beyond the modelled examples given. Pupils who achieve mastery in writing consider the impact of what they produce on the reader and they can justify their reasons for vocabulary choice and sentence and paragraph structures.

Grammar, punctuation and spelling are taught explicitly and in context across the curriculum. When pupils are working at greater depth, they can apply the skill confidently, accurately and effectively in a range of writing.

Equal Opportunities

We aim to provide for the education of children of all ethnic and religious backgrounds. Where children have a physical disability, we aim to provide resources and learning experiences that will support their learning in English.

Monitoring and review

Policy Date: Autumn 2022

Review Date: Autumn 2025