



## English Subject Statement

<p><b>Subject</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>English</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">‘Literacy is the jump off point from which all of life’s successes take flight’ – <i>Lauri Fortino</i></p>		
<p><b>Purpose and aims</b></p>	<p>The overarching aim for English at Ashmount is underpinned by the aims in the National Curriculum. We promote high standards of language and literacy from the EYFS by equipping pupils with a strong command of the spoken and written language, and to develop their love of literature through widespread reading for enjoyment.</p> <p>At Ashmount:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We develop children’s love of reading, writing, talk and discussion.</li> <li>• We have designed our English curriculum so that it provides purposeful opportunities for oral, reading and writing development.</li> <li>• Through language, story and text children learn to form concepts, connect ideas and express themselves.</li> <li>• Across both writing and reading, we place a heavy emphasis on developing a child’s vocabulary and speaking and listening skills.</li> <li>• Aim to develop a life-long love of reading.</li> <li>• Children at Ashmount are exposed to a wide range of high-quality children’s literature – rich language and vocabulary.</li> <li>• Teach writing through high-quality texts.</li> <li>• Teach writing through immersive real-life experiences, such as educational visits or outdoor learning.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Core values</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Community</u></p> <p>Alongside ensuring all of our pupils learn to read as quickly as possible with the support of the Ashmount community (staff and parents working together), we also ensure that our pupils are exposed to a wide range of representative core texts and high quality storybooks in their English lessons and daily story time sessions.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Responsibility</u></p> <p>The English curriculum contributes to the children’s sense of personal development and enables them to take responsibility for their own progress. Our pupils learn the importance of working together with a partner and in small groups as it allows each of them the opportunity to practice and further develop their speaking and listening skills as well as share their ideas and opinions.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Growth</u></p> <p>We have high expectations for outcomes of our English curriculum and ensure that children make best progress through the high-quality daily feedback they get from their teachers. We use a live marking approach to provide children with feedback in the moment and respond. We also use this approach to address any common misconceptions/errors and address these in our planning for the following day or in mini-plenaries there and then.</p>



## Knowledge and skill progression

Children in EYFS are working towards the Early Learning Goals set out in the EYFS Framework 2020. We use the non-statutory curriculum guidance from Development Matters 2021 to inform our planning for children's progress through a sequential, language rich curriculum and enabling learning environment.

Children in Key Stage 1 & 2 are taught the knowledge, skills and understanding set out in the National Curriculum.

### Reading

In EYFS and KS1, children are taught to read through daily, high-quality systematic synthetic phonics sessions. At Ashmount we deliver this through the RWI Programme. By the spring term of Year 2, children will be reading fluently and able to access longer, texts through whole class reading lessons. From Year 2, and throughout Key Stage 2, children will develop comprehension of texts in whole class guided reading lessons, where themes, vocabulary and sentence structure in texts becoming increasingly complex.

### Writing

In EYFS, children develop their gross and fine motor skills to prepare for writing through a variety of opportunities in their learning environment that encourage independent mark making in addition to high quality modelling and interactions with their supporting adults. Our pupils are introduced to pre-writing symbols in their literacy lessons. They are also taught letter formation discretely in their daily phonics lessons. All children engage in a weekly literacy focus activity, designed to support their writing development.

In Key Stage 1, children continue to learn spelling and grammar discretely in their phonics lessons. English lessons use high quality texts as a stimulus for writing for different audiences and purposes.

By Key Stage 2, children will have developed their writing skills so that they are able to write longer pieces with accurate spelling and simple grammar. In Key Stage 2, they will learn to manipulate vocabulary and grammar to suit a wider range of audiences and purposes. They will also develop their ability to proofread and edit their work independently.

### Speaking and listening

Children will be given regular opportunities in English lessons to share their ideas, present to others and perform. In EYFS, children learn to listen to, retell the main events of and create their own stories. They also learn to ask questions and respond appropriately through story imitation and innovation, role on the wall and hot seating activities.

In Key Stage 1, children will begin to share their own ideas and give opinions.

In Key Stage 2, children will be able to present to a larger group and later to the whole class, clearly and articulately, and develop their ability to debate and speculate. They will learn to use standard English appropriately and use the correct register for their audience. Throughout their time at Duncombe, children will learn a range of poetry off by heart.



<p><b>Characteristics of effective learning</b></p>	<p><u>Engagement</u></p> <p>English is taught daily across the school through high quality texts. In Reception and KS1, phonics is taught daily through the Read, Write Inc. scheme. Spelling is also taught daily in from Year 2, once children no longer need daily explicit phonics teaching. In KS2, spelling lessons take place 3 times per week, following the Read Write Inc. Spelling scheme which is progressive and carefully sequenced. Grammar is interwoven into English lessons and occasionally taught discretely in KS2.</p>	<p><u>Motivation</u></p> <p>Children are motivated when they are exposed to a wide range of high-quality children’s literature from the moment they begin their school life with us and seeing their progress in reading and writing and outcomes in their books and on display.</p>	<p><u>Thinking</u></p> <p>The wide range of core texts we explore in our English curriculum provide our pupils with the opportunity to become creative thinkers but also to think more closely about global issues we face in society.</p> <p>Our pupils are encouraged to immerse themselves in the texts we explore with them. We expect them to imagine themselves in the role of different characters, empathise with the characters in stories and to use their imagination to generate new ideas for stories. We teach children to think critically about the flaws in the systems of our society or the societies represented in stories and ask them to generate ideas for change to build a better future.</p>
<p><b>Communication and vocabulary</b></p>	<p>Our pupils learn to be strong communicators because of the conversation rich English curriculum we teach. Our pupils learn to listen to and respond appropriately to others in pairs, small groups and in larger groups too. Through our English curriculum and wider curriculum, our pupils learn to debate, perform to an audience and to hold meaningful conversations with each other.</p> <p>Our language rich core texts, which have been carefully selected in order to represent the diversity within our school and community, focus on introducing key vocabulary each lesson. provides our pupils with the exposure to ambitious vocabulary on a daily basis. Our pupils learn to understand and use these words in context through a range of activities.</p>		
<p><b>Cultural capital</b> “the essential knowledge pupils need to become educated citizens”</p>	<p>Through the English curriculum, children will develop the essential knowledge to become educated citizens. They will learn how to read, write and speak to a range of audiences and for a range of purposes.</p> <p>They are exposed to a wide range of high-quality children’s literature as well as non-fiction texts and poetry to support their knowledge and understanding of the world.</p>		



<p>“introducing them to the best that’s been thought and said”</p> <p>“engendering an appreciation of human creativity and achievement”</p>	
<p><b>Learning experiences</b></p>	<p>English lessons are timetabled daily alongside whole class reading, handwriting and spelling sessions throughout the week. Phonics is taught daily through the Read, Write Inc. scheme in Reception and KS1. One-to-one phonics tutoring and Fresh Start Phonics interventions happen throughout the week in KS2 based on assessment.</p> <p>Through the English curriculum, children will have the opportunity to learn more about the wider world, including its diverse population. Dance and drama workshops, author and poet visits, theatre experiences, book fairs and World Book Day give children the opportunity to bring stories to life. Children will be offered carefully thought through learning experiences, enabling them to discuss, debate and write with meaning and purpose.</p>
<p><b>High quality resources</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read, Write, Inc. Phonics and Spelling Scheme, including handbooks, storybooks, work books and associated resources and materials.</li> <li>• Oxford Owl: RWI eBook library.</li> <li>• Nelson Handwriting – interactive programme, workbooks and text books.</li> <li>• CLPE – Centre for Literacy in Primary Education: The Power of Reading Online Access</li> <li>• A fantastic library, full of both fiction and non-fiction texts, which children visit to take out books to read at home or reference texts to use as part of their wider reading into curriculum areas that they are studying.</li> <li>• Each class has a well-stocked book case or reading corner filled with a wide range of high-quality children’s literature and reading materials.</li> <li>• Islington’s Reading Road Map: Key Stage 2.</li> <li>• Dictionaries and Thesauruses throughout Key Stage 2.</li> <li>• Access to Islington’s library service which provides us with class sets of high-quality texts for whole class reading.</li> </ul>