



## South Bank Primary School Curriculum Statement

**English**

**2023/2024**

**Subject Leader: Deborah Dowson**

### Intent

At South Bank Primary School, we place reading and books at the centre of everything we do as children who enjoy reading achieve highly across the curriculum. Developing a love for reading is one of the most effective ways we can create a love for learning and raise attainment. We believe that a quality English curriculum should develop children's love of reading, writing and discussion. We have a rigorous and well organised English curriculum that provides many purposeful opportunities for reading, writing and discussion. Our curriculum closely follows the aims of the National Curriculum to enable all children to:

- Read easily, fluently and with good understanding
- Develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information
- Acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- Appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage
- Write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences
- Use discussion in order to learn; they should be able to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas
- Are competent in the arts of speaking and listening, making formal presentations, demonstrating to others and participating in debate.

These aims are embedded across our English lessons and the wider curriculum. We will provide the means for children to develop a secure knowledgebase in English, which follows a clear pathway of progression as they advance through the primary curriculum. Rigorous assessment and review will ensure that we are able to provide targeted support so that all children experience success in English, whatever their backgrounds, level of disadvantage, their disabilities and other variables; we believe that a secure basis in English skills is crucial to a high-quality education and will give our children the tools they need to participate fully as a member of society.

### Implementation

At South Bank Primary we are closely working with the English Hub, RWI and Grammarsaurus to accelerate progress and develop confident learners. There are regular training and development days throughout the year to ensure staff are equipped to teach with the expertise and skills required to promote excellent progress, as well as a love of reading.

In our EYFS, we recognise the importance of providing a meaningful language rich environment; we want our children to be able to express themselves and engage in conversations with their friends and adults. We share stories and sing songs regularly throughout the day, as well as using language to support vocabulary and thinking skills. Welcomm is a toolkit we use in order to assess children's language skills, if intervention is needed highly skilled practitioners carry out fun, play based activities in order to move children forward. Early reading is supported through the Read Write Inc programme from the Summer term in Nursery alongside Talk through stories. We focus on developing language skills and immerse children in a range of stories read to them daily to widen their range of vocabulary.

Discreet phonics lessons are taught as an integral part of the curriculum to support with learning the 44 phonemes that make up all the sounds required for reading and spelling. RWI is used from Reception to Year 4 with Fresh Start intervention used in Year 5 and 6 where needed. Rigorous frequent assessment by the Reading Leader ensures that all children are accessing appropriate phonics groups and identifies those that need additional intervention in order to make accelerated progress. Children who do not pass their phonics screen in KS1 and those who are still on the RWI programme will continue with phonics into KS2, developing their decoding and fluency. When children have completed the RWI programme, they develop deeper reading skills following a bespoke reading curriculum developed by Grammarsaurus to ensure a progression of skills. Children also then access Accelerated Reader and Reading Plus which is part of their timetable.

All children have the opportunity to take home decodable books each week along with a book of their choosing from the school library that they can share with their families at home. Each class timetable is organised to enable weekly access to the library, which is filled with carefully selected books to provide quality reading materials for all children to promote reading for enjoyment. These books cover a range of genres and represent the diversity and multicultural nature of our school community. This rich environment ensures all books are either a **window**, showing children a different perspective or experience from their own or a **mirror**, reflecting their own lives and identities in the books that they read.

In every class there is a designated reading area with a chosen book on display for half a term. The book is either a class favourite or one linked to a topic that will be enjoyed over the half term. There are baskets of books that children can read for pleasure which are updated to include high quality texts only. Each class has carefully selected books that from the 'Favourite Five' collection. These books are chosen from recommended reading lists suitable for each year group and updated regularly. The mixture of new and classic books are read to the children throughout each half term to allow children to become familiar with these stories. We have established a close link to our community library and throughout the year children across all key stages take regular trips there. Children have the opportunity to take out a library card to encourage independence and a love of reading at home.

At South Bank Primary we follow a writing progression map and model texts that have been written specifically for us by Grammarsaurus linked to our curriculum topics. These model texts cover all national curriculum objectives for writing including spelling, punctuation and grammar. Handwriting is taught in conjunction with RWI programme to ensure children form all upper and lower-case letters correctly, begin developing a consistent handwriting style, joining letters when they are ready. Children are given opportunities from KS1 to edit and improve their own and others' work with the use of a purple polishing pen; being encouraged to up-level both language choices and sentence structure.

## Impact

The organisation of the English curriculum is engaging and high quality which provides children with strong foundations and a community of enthusiastic readers and writers who enjoy showcasing their developing knowledge and skills. Children will grow strong phonics roots and be able to apply these with confidence to both reading and spelling. Through discussion and feedback, children talk enthusiastically about reading and writing and understand the importance of this subject. They can also talk about books and authors that they have enjoyed and can make reading recommendations. Children are confident to take risks in their reading and writing, and love to discuss and share their ideas. Outcomes of work in both English and topic books evidence the high quality of work and the impact of varied and cross curricular writing opportunities. These enable children to write across a range of forms and adapt their writing successfully, considering the purpose.

At the end of each year, we expect the children to have achieved Age Related Expectations (ARE) for their year group. Some children will have progressed further and achieved greater depth (GD). Pupils falling into the lowest 20% category make progress from their starting point and as with all pupils are proud of the progress they have made.

