

English Intent

At Mount Tamar School, our English curriculum empowers pupils to become confident readers, effective communicators, and skilled writers, while developing a lifelong love of reading and the literacy skills needed for success in education, employment, and everyday life. Through the study of diverse and engaging texts, pupils explore themes such as identity, resilience, prejudice, and social justice, encouraging them to reflect on their own experiences and those of others while developing empathy, emotional literacy, social awareness, and critical thinking. Literature serves as a powerful vehicle for self-discovery and understanding the wider world, exposing pupils to a broad range of cultures, perspectives, and human experiences. Our carefully sequenced curriculum combines functional and academic literacy through a structured, skills-based approach that supports sustained progress in reading, writing, and oracy, enabling pupils to express themselves clearly, confidently, and effectively across a range of contexts

Implementation

English at Mount Tamar is delivered following the guidance of the national curriculum while being carefully adapted to meet individual learning needs. Each pupil receives four, forty-five-minute lessons each week. Teachers plan and assess according to the needs of their pupils. In each half-term targets are drawn from assessment data that has been completed. Lessons are sequenced to build on prior knowledge, with an emphasis on gradually developing reading fluency, writing proficiency, and oral communication skills.

Impact

The impact of our English curriculum is reflected in pupils' increasing confidence, improved communication skills, and success in external assessments. Pupils are supported to articulate their ideas more effectively, analyse texts with greater depth, and express themselves clearly across a range of written and spoken contexts. Progress is closely monitored through regular half-termly assessments in reading, writing, and speaking and listening, while teaching is underpinned by the evidence-based principle of deliberate practice. Across all lessons, pupils are explicitly taught and supported in five key literacy areas: vocabulary, word class, literary devices, retrieval practice, and inference. Each pupil receives a personalised target every half-term and tailored support to develop their literacy skills. Alongside the National Curriculum, pupils work towards recognised qualifications, beginning with Entry Level courses at KS3 and KS4 before progressing to GCSE English Language and, where appropriate, Functional Skills qualifications. Ultimately, the curriculum is designed to prepare pupils for further education, employment, and adult life, ensuring they leave Mount Tamar with the literacy skills and qualifications needed to demonstrate strong progress in English, Maths, and Science.