



## St Dennis Primary Academy – English



“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you’ll go.” — Dr Seuss

English supports spiritual development by engaging children with poetry, fiction and drama. Children explore the feelings and values found in a wide range of genres, through discussion and debate. For example, when studying the novel ‘Holes’ by Louis Sachar in Year 6, it encourages the discussion of the difference between good and bad, considering the impact of conscience. The study of texts like this gives children the opportunity to think about the consequences of right and wrong behaviour, applying this to their own lives. Creative writing and the study of poetry provides an opportunity to reflect on their own beliefs and establish their own relationship with language. Writing is expressive and allows for the freedom to be creative and experiment.



English supports moral development by encouraging children to look, discuss and evaluate a range of social and moral issues found in genres. During the study of fiction, children are able to analyse characters and events to explore the consequences of negative actions and are given the opportunity to consider different perspectives and empathise with other characters. For instance, when Year 5 study Shakespeare’s ‘Macbeth’, it poses a range of topics and themes for debate such as the dangers of power and ambition. Novel Studies in upper KS2 deal with moral questions, such as disability, race and homelessness. Writing non-fiction texts such as newspaper articles, leaflets, reports and reviews help children to apply fiction to real life scenarios.

English supports social development by helping children to understand how written and spoken language has changed over time and also social attitudes to language.

Debate is an important aspect of the subject, giving logical arguments with respect, rationality and thoughtfulness. English lessons promote cooperation and teamwork through being able to work in groups, listening to presentations and asking questions. Real issues encourage students to think about the world outside of school and give opinions on topics that may affect them in the future for example, in Year 4 when learning about the Amazon Rainforest, children are required to take on various roles and argue a point of view.



English supports the cultural development of children by exposing them to a wide range of written and spoken language from a range of cultures. Shakespeare, poetry and non-fiction texts enable students to explore their own and other cultures. The poetry built into the English Long-Term Plan across every year, requires pupils to build an understanding of what culture and tradition is and means to people. English Literature requires pupils to appreciate and understand the works of writers from different cultures.