

English Intent statement

Intent: Introduction, Vision and Philosophy

The purpose of this document is to clarify the English teaching at Weston Schools Federation.

At Weston Schools Federation, we want our children to be creative writers who read for pleasure, as well as for information. For this reason, we begin with a focus on reading, ensuring children engage with written material, digest it, critique it and use what they have read, in shaping their own ideas in writing. At Weston Schools Federation the children are exposed to rich, high quality texts, we read and listen to these whole books, not simply extracts, which help pupils to increase their vocabulary and grammatical knowledge, including their knowledge of the vocabulary and grammar of spoken English. These activities also help them to understand how different types of writing, including narratives, are structured. We instill in our children the importance of discussion to learn; they are taught to be able to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas, with support from our P4C work.

Implementation: What does English look like at Weston Schools Federation?

English is taught across the school focusing on the following different skills: phonics, reading, handwriting, spelling and grammar and Core writing lessons that have a speaking, listening and reading into writing focus.

Phonics

At Weston Schools Federation, Phonics is taught using Little Wandle program which aims to build upon children's speaking and listening skills as well as preparing them for learning to read by developing their phonic knowledge and skills. It sets out a detailed and systematic program for teaching phonic skills for children with the aim of them becoming fluent readers.

Phase One starts in Preschool and nursery and continues through the reception year and has the overarching intention of teaching young children important basic elements of Little Wandle program, such as oral segmenting and blending of familiar words. It is delivered through adult led activities and high quality play opportunities in a language rich environment. The subsequent phases teach children grapheme-phoneme correspondences, how to blend and segment words and how to read and spell high frequency 'tricky' words. The teaching of Phonics continues with the aim of children becoming fluent readers by the end of KS1.

Children are encouraged to use their phonic skills across all curriculum subjects. We have a strong emphasis on the application of phonic knowledge at the point of learning.

Guided and home reading books are organised to support the delivery of the Little Wandle program. Bug Club banded books are available online and in hard copy form for children to access. Parents are expected to hear their child read 5 times per week and sign a reading record. We have a reading badge Reward scheme to celebrate home reading.

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

Spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) are taught within English lessons; the children will use their new knowledge and implement them into their writing task for the lesson. All SPaG inputs are taught in line with the National Curriculum guidelines, these skills are then assessed against a year group writing criteria when they complete their independent piece for each unit. A separate piece of work, based solely on the new skill being taught is also written per topic.

At Weston Schools Federation, spellings are based upon the Appendix 1 of the 2014 National Curriculum as well as topic words which are linked to the writing and topic work being completed in class. The spellings are chosen and plotted half-termly with this information being sent home at the start of each half term. While there is no set spelling test, the spelling rules are taught and the topic words are discussed and on display within the classroom. The assessment of spelling is completed through the application of these words in the children's work.

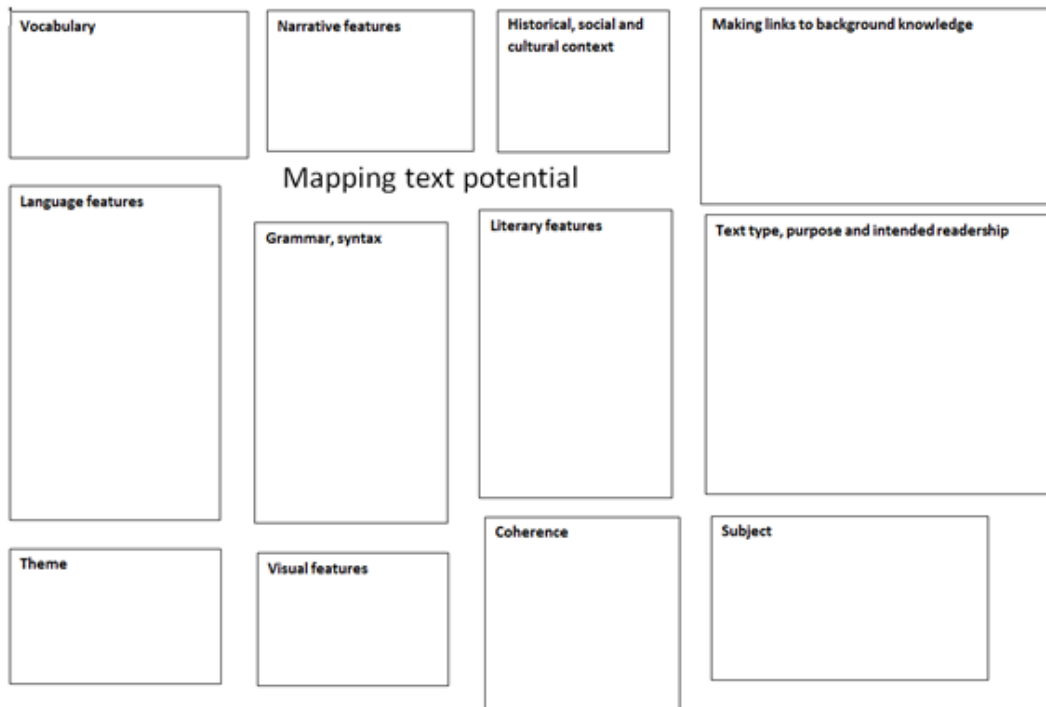
Reading

In School the journey of reading builds up throughout the years. The children are aware of the expectations across year groups and are enthused about the books they will be reading both in that year and the following years. Along the KS2 corridor, there is a display which shows our journey as readers, which allows the children to see the progress they have made and where they are going to.



<u>Reading in Year R.</u>	Daily tricky word practice and phonics teaching Daily group reading activities Daily shared reading and story time Children heard 1:1 reading
<u>Reading in Year 1</u>	Daily tricky word practice and phonics teaching Daily group reading activities Shared reading x3 per week Whole Class Reading 1x per week Children heard 1:1 reading
<u>Reading in Year 2</u>	Daily tricky word practice and phonics teaching Whole Class Reading 1x per week Guided reading x4 per week Shared reading x4 per week Children heard 1:1 reading
<u>Reading in Year 3 & 4</u>	Whole Class Reading 4 x 45 minutes per week Phonics interventions Independent reading opportunities daily. Class novel shared Children heard 1:1 reading
<u>Reading in Year 5 & 6</u>	Whole Class Reading 4 x 45 minutes per week Independent Reading 4 x 15 minutes per week Class novel shared Children heard 1:1 reading

Before the text is introduced to the class, the teaching team will have created a “Text Mapping Potential” grid. This allows the teachers to use the text to its full potential and to ensure that the lessons are pitched appropriately for their current cohort.



During whole class reading sessions, children will be immersed in a class book, these lessons will focus on a variety of different reading targets which are appropriate for their age range. The targets are used by

teachers to ensure that all children are able to use different reading strategies to be able to decode but also to understand and infer what they are reading. Alongside the class text, children also are immersed in high-quality poetry, non-fiction texts and where possible, comprehensions are linked to their other topics they are currently learning about in class.

To improve their vocabulary, years 1-6 complete Word of the Day (WOD) several times a week. This is focused on words that are linked to what they are learning but are not words they would have had prior knowledge of. We look at the word class, meaning, synonyms, antonyms, prefixes and suffixes of each of the words and add them to a display within the classroom. Vocabulary development is a priority in all classes and multiple activities are completed in each unit of work to ensure children are exposed to rich examples that they understand and are able to use themselves.

To further encourage a love of reading and a culture of reading, each year group will have a large variety of age-related books which will consist of a range of genres, fiction and non-fiction aimed at both girls and boys. Weston Schools Federation use the Active Learn Bug Club website, which allows the teacher to ensure the books are pitched appropriately and the children have access to the books easily. There are copies of the book available in the school should they be needed.

At all times, the children have three books to choose from, the first is their assigned book from Bug Club, the second is one they have chosen on their weekly visit to the library and the final one is a banded book for those still on bands, or a free choice from the book corner for those who are at ARE.

At Home:

All children across the school are expected to read daily at home. Each child has been given a reading log, which should be signed by an adult. These are checked daily.

Support

For those children who are struggling with reading, Weston Schools Federation uses the Dandelion Readers. These are a series of decodable phonics based texts based on the progression of phonics. The books have a step by step progression where each text is controlled by the phonemic focus in the book, which enables the child to practise blending and reading independently at every stage. The children on this programme are read with regularly and complete the tasks based around the books with an adult.

English lessons