

## English curriculum at PACE

### INTENT

We aim to:

- Improve pupils' reading age and comprehension skills. Good reading skills are paramount if children are to fully access our whole, broad curriculum on offer.
- Ensure those pupils who have fallen behind Age Related Expectations, make good progress in line with their peers.
- Instil a love of reading for pleasure in all our pupils and encourage them to read widely across both fiction and non-fiction to develop knowledge of themselves and the world around them.
- We want all children to achieve their greatest potential by being able to successfully communicate their knowledge, ideas, and feelings through writing.
- Support and nurture each child on their individual journeys to become successful writers.
- Provide engaging and exciting writing opportunities and experiences for all pupils.
- We want all children to have a solid understanding of spelling, punctuation, and grammar and to be able to use it successfully in their writing.
- We want them to write clearly, accurately, and coherently, changing their language and style to and for a variety of contexts, purposes, and audiences.

### Reading including Phonics at PACE.

#### Phonics

PACE accepts referrals from 55 primary schools in the borough and the children who attend have experienced a variety of phonics schemes at their mainstream school. Most of our pupils also spend part of the week at their mainstream school.

To ensure each child's individual needs are met in such a small group setting with children coming at different levels, teachers use resources from Read Write Inc and Letters and Sounds.

For children who have fallen behind ARE in their mainstream school, Twinkl phonics and Nessy are used for some children who have found it difficult to access the regular synthetic phonic schemes.

### IMPLEMENTATION

Our pupils read their assigned reading book every day to an adult. Our well trained staff are experts in early reading, sounding and blending. Our referral form received from the child's mainstream school ensures we have the correct book band level for our pupils.

Teachers model reading in all lessons. Teachers model fluency by reading daily to the pupils – showing them how we can use our voice to make sense.

Every day we use Dandelion Readers reading scheme books and Project X from Oxford University press to reinforce the children's phonetic skills as each book progresses and focuses upon the

[www.paceandlaunchpad.sthelens.gov.uk](http://www.paceandlaunchpad.sthelens.gov.uk)

**LAUNCHPAD**



specific sound or diagraph the child is working on.

Teachers also assess the child's phonics level through using the phonic code scheme assessment tool – Dandelion Readers.

For each class, PACEs Remarkable Reader award is given half termly. This comprises of a trophy, medal and certificate and entuses the children to enjoy their reading and give their best effort.

Teaching staff carefully select texts based on the current cohort and their interests and we have embedded the VIPERS acronym from Literacy Shed across Key stage 2 during whole class texts.

VIPERS is an aid to recall of the 6 reading domains as part of the UK's reading curriculum. They are the key areas which we feel children need to know and understand in order to improve their comprehension of texts.

VIPERS stands for

**V**ocabulary

**I**nference

**P**rediction

**E**xplanation

**R**etrieval

**S**equence or **S**ummarise

The 6 domains focus on the comprehension aspect of reading and not the mechanics: decoding, fluency, prosody etc. As such, VIPERS is not a reading scheme but rather a method of ensuring that teachers ask, and students are familiar with, a range of questions. They allow the teacher to track the type of questions asked and the children's responses to these which allows for targeted questioning afterwards.

Vocabulary rich books and a vocabulary focus across the curriculum to help remove barriers when reading also helps improve fluency.

Our home reading scheme is Project X Alien Adventures and Moon Dog, published by Oxford as well as a variety of book banded books both fiction and non-fiction. Books are changed when required and reading diaries checked and books changed when finished. There are rewards in place for consistent reading at home.

Each class has a comfortable, quiet reading area. The pupils can feel comfortable here and read for pleasure. This links directly to one of the principles of nurture - the *classroom offers a safe base*. We also have a whole school library area with a wide range of fiction and non-fiction. Bean bags allow the pupils to be comfortable and read for pleasure in this area.

[www.paceandlaunchpad.sthelens.gov.uk](http://www.paceandlaunchpad.sthelens.gov.uk)

**LAUNCHPAD**



Reading buddies are assigned and weekly sessions take place of peer-to-peer reading.

We celebrate reading with whole school activities National Poetry Day and Roald Dahl Day. On World Book Day we invite parents to join us in reading and story activities with their children.

At PACE, writing is taught daily across the whole school. Each class studies a different high-quality text, lasting from a few weeks to a whole term depending on text type, length and year group. Long, medium and short term planning ensure that a variety of genres are progressively taught and built upon both throughout the year and throughout the school.

Through the 'differentiated texts' writing process, children will acquire and learn the skills to plan, draft and refine their written work overtime and are encouraged to develop independence in being able to identify their own areas for development in all pieces of writing.

Sequenced lessons within each unit of work ensure that prior knowledge is revisited and built upon and that National Curriculum objectives are taught using a variety of approaches /opportunities.

Spelling is taught outside of English lessons and children understand the importance of learning spellings in a memorable and interesting way through the use of Spelling Shed.

## **Writing**

It is evident from routinely monitoring lesson plans, texts, and pupil conversations that writing is taught in a structured and progressive manner, that previous teaching and learning are taken into account, and that learning is memorable.

Children love discussing their writing, including its organisation, intent, and impact on the reader. They feel comfortable sharing their writing with others and show pride in their work.

## **IMPACT**

The vast majority of our pupils make significant progress in reading and writing.

We assess the pupils reading progress through *Reading Plus*. We also use the York Reading Age assessments for reading age. The vast majority of pupils make good progress.

By increasing the pupils reading ability, this has a wider impact across the whole curriculum and their ability to access this independently. This is evidenced through termly tracking data.

Reading diaries are regularly signed by parents showing evidence of a love of reading.

Through auditing our reading offer, PACE was recognised by Scholastic for actively supporting The Reading Charter, which is displayed in school, and putting reading for pleasure at the heart of school life.

[www.paceandlaunchpad.sthelens.gov.uk](http://www.paceandlaunchpad.sthelens.gov.uk)

**LAUNCHPAD**



**LAUNCHPAD**

