



# STATEMENT OF INTENT – ENGLISH

## Our School Vision

*An Inclusive Community Inspiring Life Long Learners*

### *Intent*

At Alderley Edge Community Primary School, our aim to provide children with an engaging, text rich curriculum that motivates a love of reading and writing. Children will be exposed to a wide range of high-quality texts that develop both reading and writing skills so that all children have access to a language rich English curriculum. This will allow our children to become fully literate, and able to discuss themes and ideas in texts from the aspect of both the reader and the writer. We aim to give children a rapid start in their decoding skills so that they can learn to read and then read to learn for the rest of their lives. Children will understand that reading frequently makes them a good reader and that being a good reader expands their world. Children will use their knowledge of the books they read and the books they have had read to them to have an impact on their own writing.

The writing curriculum aims to build confident, creative and skillful writers so that by their end points, children learn to write with both appropriate voice and for a wide range of purposes. We build on the outcomes in the EYFS and through the National Curriculum work to achieve these goals, and aim for children to utilise their reading and writing skills confidently across all other areas of the curriculum. Our intention is that our English curriculum also fully supports our core drivers of academic excellence, life-long learning, possibilities and risks and social intelligence so that the children are equipped to carry on learning beyond their primary education.

### *Implementation*

Our whole curriculum is shaped by our school vision, which aims to enable all children, regardless of background, ability, additional needs, to flourish to develop the knowledge and skills to be life-long learners. We teach the National Curriculum, ensuring all objectives are covered for each year group. This ensures that skills and knowledge are built on year-by-year and sequenced appropriately to maximise learning for all children.

To ensure a solid range of skills and understanding, English is taught across three main strands in the EYFS; comprehension, word reading and writing. This is developed further into KS1 and KS2 and taught across five strands; writing, grammar, handwriting and presentation, reading and poetry. With phonics and early decoding across EYFS and KS1 (and into KS2 if applicable) children are taught to blend and segment using the Read, Write, Inc. (RWI) phonics scheme. Home reading books for all children on the scheme are carefully matched to their phonics ability using RWI book bag books. Children who have successfully completed the scheme move onto white and lime book banded books and continue using these books through KS2. This ensures that whilst children are encouraged to 'free read' for pleasure they also have weekly exposure to high quality texts of many different genres, continuing to develop their comprehension and broaden their vocabulary. All year groups across the school use "Read to Write" units produced by Literacy Counts. The units of work center on engaging, vocabulary-rich texts, with a wealth of writing opportunities. They follow the immerse, analyse, plan and write pattern of knowing a text inside out and using it to create their own writing and so over time children become very skilled in these processes. Teachers use this model when planning other units of work for writing.

To develop children's spelling and grammar we use the "No Nonsense" spelling program from Years 2 to 6. A spelling pattern or rule is focused on at the start of the week and children are set a homework task to explore it at home. Children complete a spelling check every Friday with unseen words to ensure that they can apply spelling rules rather than learning set lists of words. Every classroom has a designated reading area, which is utilized as appropriate for the age of the children. Reading for pleasure is encouraged and the teacher throughout the week reads to all classes. Each class has a carefully selected reading spine comprising of vehicle texts by which the curriculum is delivered, recommended home reading books, and stories read by the teacher to the class for both enjoyment and to enhance a topic or area of learning.

At Alderley Edge Community Primary School, we give children access to a wide range of good quality resources and provide cross curricular opportunities for children to apply their English knowledge and skills. The enjoyment of reading and writing is also continued beyond the classroom with enjoyment and enrichment activities such as World Book Day celebrations, school book fairs, extensive use of the School Library Service and reading after school clubs.

### *Impact*

The implementation of this curriculum ensures that when children leave Alderley Edge Community Primary School, they are competent in both their reading and writing skills and are equipped to access their next stage of education. Children leave our school keen to read books that engage them and that they enjoy and reach high standards in assessment. A greater number of children leaving Alderley Edge Community Primary school meet the expected standard for reading and writing than the national average, with a much higher number reaching the exceeding standard for reading.