

Intent: English skills—reading and writing, speaking and listening—are key life skills; without them, it is impossible to access other area of the curriculum and to flourish in society. Children should leave Kentish Town Primary School able to read and write fluently and with pleasure. They should be able to articulate their own ideas, and to listen and respond to the ideas of those around them so that they leave our school in a strong position to engage not only with their learning, but also with all that the wider world has to offer.

We aim to develop children’s English learning through a shared love of books and reading, an understanding of the reasons why we write, an appreciation of the power of reading and writing, and a shared focus on the value of speaking and listening, especially in our rights respecting school.



English at Kentish Town C of E

At Kentish Town, we nurture and develop children’s knowledge and understanding of reading, writing, speaking and listening from Early Years to Year 6. We intend to:

- Ensure the National Curriculum is reflected in our own curriculum design at every stage with cross-curricular links where appropriate
- Select high quality texts/library books and book corner books that reflect the children in our school
- Encourage children to draw on the texts they read when writing themselves
- Adapt the English curriculum to support the needs of SEND children through alternative texts and activities where appropriate
- Ensure that children leave our school able to read fluently and for pleasure
- Ensure that children learn to write effectively for a range of purposes and audiences, at an age-appropriate level, and across all areas of the curriculum
- Embed speaking and listening within every aspect of our school life and curriculum from Nursery onwards so that children leave our school equipped to articulate their ideas and respond to those of others
- Use GES Letters and Sounds to build a secure knowledge of the phonics skills children need for reading and for writing
- Teach children the transcriptional and grammatical skills essential for written communication.
- Use the Penpals scheme to support the teaching of handwriting
- Teach children to learn to spell correctly using the No-Nonsense scheme
- Support children from Early Years to Year 6 to develop a rich and varied, age-appropriate vocabulary.
- Introduce children to a wide range of high-quality authors, texts and genres including a wide range of modern, classic and traditional stories, poems and plays, and a rich range of non-fiction texts.

Enrichment:

- Author visits
- Visits from and to specialist bookshops
- Visits from and to the local library
- Real life writing opportunities – eg to visiting speakers, or following trips
- Mystery readers
- Primary Shakespeare Company projects in Year 2 and Year 5
- Writing workshops by visiting speakers
- Regular opportunities to perform in class assemblies
- Storyteller visits and subscription
- World Book Day events and participation in choosing future World book Day books