

Curriculum Intent: English

The English curriculum is designed to develop pupils' understanding of literature as a means of exploring what it means to be human. Through the study of a wide range of texts, pupils learn that literature reflects the challenges, experiences and ideas that shape human life. To understand literature is to deepen understanding of the world, of others and of themselves.

English is rooted in the concept of universality. Pupils study how texts represent relationships: between families, friends and lovers; between nations, races and social classes; between writers, ideas and readers; and between humans and the wider natural world. These relationships underpin all human experience. Life is defined by the formation, maintenance and repair of relationships, and every English text—novel, poem, speech or play—examines, critiques or celebrates these connections in different ways.

The curriculum is sequenced to show how and why writers explore relationships through language, form and structure. Pupils develop the knowledge and vocabulary required to analyse how meaning is created and how texts reflect, challenge or shape societal values. This sustained focus on relationships across texts, contexts and time ensures coherence and progression, and reflects the enduring relevance of English as a subject. This is what we mean by universality, which is threaded from Year 7 to Year 11.

English Curriculum Overview – Topics Covered (Years 7–11)

Year 7 – Introducing English

- Gothic literature and descriptive writing
- Power and language through *Animal Farm*
- Love, tragedy and literary heritage through *Romeo and Juliet* and poetry

Focus: introducing English as a subject, developing descriptive writing, and building early analytical reading skills.

Year 8 – Voice, Perspective and Society

- Voice and marginalisation through *Of Mice and Men*
- Opinion writing, rhetoric and public speaking
- Shakespearean comedy and social relationships in *Much Ado About Nothing*
 - Creative non-fiction and poetry

Focus: developing sustained analysis, persuasive writing, and confidence with whole texts and viewpoint.

Year 9 – Control, Responsibility and the Modern World

- Human nature, leadership and morality in *Lord of the Flies*
 - Poetry analysis
 - Dystopian fiction and narrative craft
- Rhetoric, social responsibility and modern drama in *An Inspector Calls*

Focus: strengthening interpretation, independent judgement and controlled writing in preparation for GCSE.

Years 10–11 – GCSE English

- 19th-century literature (e.g. *A Christmas Carol*)
 - Shakespeare (*Macbeth*)
 - Poetry (including war poetry)
- English Language: reading unseen texts and writing for different purposes
 - Spoken language and presentation skills
- Spring Year 11: consolidation, revision and preparation for final examinations

Focus: applying reading and writing skills independently, refining exam technique, and preparing for GCSE assessment.

Overall Curriculum Journey

Across Years 7–11, students move from **imaginative description and early analysis** towards **confident interpretation, argument and crafted writing**, supported by carefully sequenced study of fiction, drama, poetry and non-fiction texts.