



# Language & Literacy Policy

Accepted	Review Date
June 2016	June 2017

## **Rationale**

As a school we recognise that the development of Language and Literacy skills are fundamental in equipping pupils to be able to communicate effectively throughout life, in addition to being essential to their educational development.

Literacy underpins the entire curriculum by developing pupils' abilities to speak, listen, read and write for a wide range of purposes. The acquisition of these skills are essential to enhance and enrich learning and teaching in all subject areas in addition to enabling pupils to function successfully in the wider world.

Within our school, we interpret Language and Literacy to include the teaching of the full Language and Literacy Programmes of Study and the consolidation and application of these concepts across the Cross Curricular Skills Areas, all other subject areas and within Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities.

Our aim is to equip pupils to develop their Language and Literacy skills in order to be able to express themselves socially, emotionally and physically, to develop as individuals, to engage with others and to contribute as members of society.

## **Aims**

We strive to provide high quality language and literacy experiences for our pupils. The key aims of language and literacy are for pupils to:

- Develop a positive attitude towards language and literacy through the provision of learning experiences which are enjoyable, challenging and interesting.
- Develop personal qualities of creativity, confidence, curiosity, enthusiasm, exploration, independence and co-operation with others.
- Develop the ability to understand and use language, both spoken and written, as an integral part of learning.
- Communicate clearly and effectively, both orally and in writing, for a variety of purposes and audiences.

### **Talking and Listening**

- Listen actively to others, interpreting meanings, intentions and feelings.
- Plan, deliver and evaluate an oral presentation for an audience.
- Confidently engage in group and paired conversations and discussions with a clear purpose.

### **Reading**

- Become enthusiastic and reflective readers through engaging with a wide range of texts.
- Use a range of strategies to read confidently for information, ideas and enjoyment.
- Become discerning readers who can discuss styles, techniques and preferences.

### **Writing**

- See themselves as writers and recognise the value of the written word.
- Express their creativity by planning for and writing in a variety of forms for different audiences and purposes.
- Evaluate their own and others' work and know how to edit to make improvements.
- Use phonics and other strategies to be confident and effective spellers.
- Develop an accurate and efficient handwriting style.

## Our Values & Mission Statement

This policy document and the associated scheme are not written in isolation. They were both developed in the context of the school's values and the resulting mission statement.

Values	Contribution of Language and Literacy Policy and Scheme
To be a Happy & Healthy Environment	Our approach to the teaching of language and literacy should be stimulating, enjoyable and taught within a positive learning environment.
To develop Skilled Learners & Flexible Thinkers	Learners will be asked to form opinions, problem solve and think critically. They will be encouraged to transfer the literacy skills developed and apply their learning to other situations.
To value Partnerships both Locally & Globally	Our annual literacy festival (Festival of Words) promotes learning in partnership with local schools. Pupils are given opportunities to work with local authors and illustrators to develop their literacy skills. All pupils participate in World Book Day to globally unite in the celebration of reading.
To inspire High Aspirations and Achievements	The potential of every child will be celebrated. Each child will be given the opportunity to work at a level at which they can experience success. Data will also be studied and tracked to ensure that individuals, year groups and at whole school level we are improving performances against previous bests and compared to benchmarks in Northern Ireland and across the U.K.

Mission Statement	Contribution of Language and Literacy Policy and Scheme
Care & Wellbeing Central	High Level of Compliance - Ensuring that all succeed is central to our caring ethos. Wellbeing is enhanced via developing confidence through fun and engaging teaching.
Health & Sport Promoted	High Level of Compliance - Being literate allows pupils to access the curriculum and succeed. Self-esteem is central to healthy living.
Involving Parents & Community	High Level of Compliance - SMILE Nights, parent information evenings, partnerships with local authors all engage community.
Learning & Teaching Focused	High Level of Compliance - Quality learning and teaching for all pupils.
Developing Technology & Creativity	High Level of Compliance - An ideal area for promoting new approaches e.g. using iPad technology to enhance the literacy experiences.
Raising Expectations & Standards	High Level of Compliance - Performance tracking and focused interventions.
Excellence & Innovation Pursued	High Level of Compliance - We are utilising technology and taking a critical look at our traditional pedagogy to raise standards.
Networking Locally & Globally	High Level of Compliance - Linking pupils with others locally and globally e.g. Shared Education & Erasmus+ Projects.

**This is an abridged version of the policy.  
A full copy is available on request from the school office.**