



Slaley First School

ENGLISH INTENT

Nurturing Ambitious Individuals

**A Vocabulary and Knowledge
Rich Curriculum**

Vocabulary

Incremental

Self-Reviewing

"Communication and language are the foundations of learning and thinking. Words describe and define the limits of our understanding." (Education, Endowment Foundation 2019).

The overarching aim for English in the national curriculum is to promote high standards of language and literacy by equipping pupils with a strong command of the spoken and written word, and to develop their love of literature through widespread reading for enjoyment. **National Curriculum 2014.**

Children at Slaley First School have a real thirst for new vocabulary. Opportunities for teachers to enhance pupils' **vocabulary** arise naturally from their reading and writing. Terminology is taught and built up over time as the children progress through the school. Children are challenged to apply their use of vocabulary in written work, where expectations match those of the English curriculum.

Our curriculum is set out in **small incremental steps** in order to minimise the scaffolding needed. Research by the Education Endowment Foundation indicates that it is just as important to avoid over-scaffolding as it is to ensure all pupils are adequately supported. It also indicates that it is important to take account of the prior knowledge that children bring to lessons and to help them to build upon this understanding. Our curriculum is therefore designed to build upon prior knowledge and skills. It is **self-reviewing** whereby knowledge gained is consolidated and revisited in order to support retention and recall.

At Slaley First School, our English curriculum is designed to develop children's love of reading, writing and discussion in line with the National Curriculum and the Statutory Framework for Early Years. We aim to prepare our learners for life as successful, valuable and socially responsible citizens. We follow a rolling programme to accommodate the needs of our mixed classes in Early Years, Key Stage 1 and 2. We inspire an appreciation of our rich and varied literary heritage and a habit of reading widely and often. We nurture a culture where children take pride in their writing, can write clearly, imaginatively and accurately adapt their language and style for a range of contexts. We inspire children to be confident in the art of speaking and listening and to use discussion to communicate and further their learning in all areas of the curriculum.

We believe that children need to develop a secure knowledge-base in Literacy, which follows a clear pathway of progression as they advance through the primary curriculum. Our carefully sequenced, broad and balanced curriculum, underpinned by inclusive practice, aims to provide our children with the opportunity to build on their experiences in order to achieve their goals. We believe that a secure basis in literacy skills is crucial to a high-quality education across the curriculum.