

English (Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening)

Through our teaching in English we aim to develop children's abilities to read fluently, communicate effectively in speech and writing for different purposes and to listen with concentration and understanding. Children will be taught to read a variety of texts accurately, with fluency and understanding and to respond to different layers of meaning. They will learn to analyse and evaluate a wide range of texts and to appreciate literature in its many forms.

Reading is highly valued at St Gildas' and as a school we encourage children to become "readers" not just at school but at home. Children are encouraged to read in all subjects and they are taught to understand that reading forms part of learning, particularly research. Therefore reading is not confined to just Literacy lessons.

It is part of our homework policy that children are expected to read every night. In Years 3 and 4 children are expected to fill in a reading diary with the books they are reading and the pages read that night. As an extension some children write book reviews for the books they have read. In years 5 and 6 there are specific exercises that children are expected to complete for homework with a higher focus on comprehension.

At school we use a variety of fiction and non-fiction materials when teaching reading. Reading is taught specifically in guided group sessions. Children in each class are grouped according to their decoding and comprehension ability. Each group has a guided session once a week where they use colour banded books to read and understand. In these sessions different objectives related to reading are taught and areas of difficulty are addressed.

For those children who find reading difficult and who have not yet mastered decoding specific phonic teaching is delivered using the schemes Read Write Inc, Toe by Toe and Tracks. These children work in small ability groupings.

For those children in Year 3 who require a little extra support a Year 6 lunchtime Book Club is offered.

In line with being a Sustainable school a weekly book exchange is offered where children are encouraged to bring in books from home that they no longer want and to exchange for others.

Regular after school book fairs are held.

When starting in Year 3 children are issued with a Haringey Library card. All classes are taken to the Hornsey Library at least once during a half term and are encouraged to take out a non-fiction and a fiction book. Different classes participate in author events and Black History Month events.

In developing as writers, children will be encouraged to formulate ideas and communicate meaning using a broad vocabulary and effective styles. They will be taught to structure sentences grammatically and the whole content coherently.

They will be encouraged and guided to speak with confidence, adapting their speech for different audiences and to listen, understand and respond appropriately to others as members of a group. They will also have opportunities to participate in drama activities and to evaluate their own and others' contributions.

An integrated approach is used in the teaching of Speaking and Listening, Reading and Writing. The Literacy Strategy Framework provides a detailed basis for implementing the programmes of study for Reading and Writing.

Bilingual pupils will be encouraged to make use of their understanding and skills in other languages when learning English.

The support of parents for the St. Gildas' Home/School Reading Policy enhances the acquisition of language skills and raises the attainment of individual children across the curriculum.