

English: Reading and Writing

At Portway Junior School we are committed to providing a rich and comprehensive English curriculum that equips our students with the necessary skills to become confident, articulate communicators. Our English teaching implementation is designed to foster a love for language, literature, and effective communication, laying a strong foundation for academic success and lifelong learning. Our English curriculum is thoughtfully structured to encompass the three key areas of reading, writing, and spoken language. It is aligned with the National Curriculum, providing a broad and balanced approach that caters to the diverse needs, abilities and experiences of our students.

Our reading program is designed to instil a love for literature and develop strong comprehension skills. We employ a variety of teaching strategies, including reading lessons, shared reading experiences, and independent reading activities, delivered in three sessions a week. We promote a culture of reading for pleasure by providing a wide range of age-appropriate and culturally diverse texts, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to explore different genres and authors.

At Portway, we teach reading through:

- Reading skills lessons using VIPERS
- Reading high quality texts within learning journeys
- Reading levelled books - Big Cat and Project X
- Phonics Read Write Inc scheme
- Interventions to support decoding, comprehension and fluency
- Reading for Pleasure, with staff sharing their own love of reading and whole school assemblies.
- Two libraries within school - fiction and information
- Shared class readers

The writing component of our English curriculum focuses on developing the skills required for effective and creative expression. We emphasise the writing process by using the world of the book and providing opportunities for children to explore a range of texts, generate skills from a particular text type and finally create their own versions.

At Portway, we teach writing through:

- Three phased learning journeys, following the HIAS model (Explore, Apprentice, Apply)
- Grammar lessons
- Handwriting lessons
- An hour of taught spelling every week, following Spelling Shed scheme
- Phonics spelling programme used to address gaps
- Interventions to support handwriting, spelling and key writing skills
- Cross curricular writing opportunities

Effective communication is a cornerstone of our English curriculum. We integrate opportunities for spoken language development across all subjects, encouraging students to express their ideas with clarity and confidence. Classroom discussions, presentations, poetry performances and drama activities contribute to the development of strong oral communication skills, preparing students for success in various social and academic contexts.

Recognising the diverse needs of our students, we employ a range of teaching strategies to ensure inclusivity and differentiation. Teachers plan and adapt lessons to enable all pupils to make progress,

providing additional support where needed, and challenge students to reach their full potential. We celebrate and value the individual strengths and contributions of each child.

Our assessment practices are ongoing, varied, and formative. We use a combination of teacher assessments, peer evaluations, and self-assessment to gauge student progress. Feedback is constructive, highlighting achievements and offering guidance for improvement.

By the time the children leave Portway, they are empowered with the skills and knowledge necessary for success in both academic pursuits and lifelong communication. We strive for all children to leave as competent readers who enjoy reading for pleasure, have been exposed to a variety of genres and can apply reading skills alongside being able to express opinions on texts. They are creative writers who can write for a range of purposes and audiences, whilst accurately applying grammar skills to achieve cohesion. At Portway Juniors, we equip our children with the skills they need to access and enjoy the English curriculum at their secondary school; to love reading and to be effective communicators.