



THE INDEPENDENT GRAMMAR SCHOOL: DURHAM

English Curriculum Overview

Throughout the year we will be teaching these topics:

Year Group	Topics
Year 1	Read, write and use phonics; sentence writing; capital letters and full stops; stories and fables; oral retelling and vocabulary building; non-fiction texts; simple reports; question writing; poetry; rhythm and rhyme; performance; traditional tales; story writing; instruction writing; consolidation.
Year 2	Reading fluency; grammar (nouns, verbs); story structure; myths and legends; expanded sentences; conjunctions; non-fiction (reports, recounts); comprehension skills; poetry; figurative language (simple); story writing with detail; editing skills; consolidation; writing for different purposes.
Year 3	Narrative (legends); paragraphs; dialogue; technical vocabulary; comprehension; poetry (performance and structure); imagery; stories from other cultures; character development; diary writing; consolidation; extended writing.
Year 4	Classic texts; reading comprehension; inference; non-fiction (reports and explanations); formal language; poetry; figurative language; performance; narrative writing; setting and atmosphere; persuasive writing; debates; consolidation; editing and redrafting.
Year 5	Non-chronological reports; impersonal writing; research and retrieval; non-fiction discussion; formal writing; persuasive words; figurative poetry; figurative techniques; analysis; newspaper writing; past perfect tense; quotes and eye-witness accounts; fantasy writing; setting description; character creation; narrative poetry; performance; comparison.
Year 6	Science-fiction writing; character analysis; inference skills; persuasive writing; structure of work; planning and developing; classic literature; performance; character analysis; writing diary entries; emotive writing; vocabulary development; nonsense poetry; analysis; rhythm and rhyme; autobiographies; informal writing; editing work.

Curriculum Intent

At The Independent Grammar School: Durham, our English curriculum is designed to:

- Develop fluent, confident readers and writers
- Build a rich vocabulary and deep cultural knowledge
- Ensure pupils engage with high-quality literature and texts
- Follow a coherent, cumulative sequence of knowledge and skills in line with the National Curriculum and Core Knowledge UK

Implementation

- English is taught through high-quality, engaging lessons
- Pupils read, write and discuss a wide range of texts and genres
- Explicit teaching of grammar, vocabulary and text structures
- Regular opportunities for speaking, listening and performance
- Use of high-quality Core Knowledge texts and literature
- Structured progression from phonics to fluency to comprehension and analysis
- Regular assessment and feedback to support long-term retention

Impact

Pupils will:

- Read fluently, with strong comprehension skills
- Write clearly, accurately and for a range of purposes
- Demonstrate a broad knowledge of literature and language
- Develop confidence in speaking, listening and performing
- Be well-prepared for secondary education and beyond



English helps children find their voice, explore new ideas and understand the world through the power of words.