

THE INDEPENDENT GRAMMAR SCHOOL: DURHAM

English Curriculum Overview - Lower School (Reception-Year 4)

Core Knowledge UK • Read, Write, Inc. Phonics

Lower School Curriculum Map

Year Group	Michaelmas 1	Michaelmas 2	Lent 1	Lent 2	Trinity 1	Trinity 2
EYFS (Reception)	Read, Write, Inc Phonics; Listening & attention; Nursery rhymes	Read, Write, Inc Phonics; Oral storytelling; Mark-making	Read, Write, Inc Phonics; Non-fiction texts; Simple sentences; Retelling stories	Read, Write, Inc Phonics; Early writing; Sentence building; Vocabulary development	Read, Write, Inc Phonics; Reading simple texts; Story sequencing	Read, Write, Inc Phonics; Consolidation; Speaking in full sentences; Early comprehension
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

Curriculum Intent

- Build phonics knowledge and early decoding skills
- Develop a love of books, stories and language
- Build confident speaking and listening skills
- Develop early writing skills to communicate ideas
- Develop the language and vocabulary needed for future learning

Document Owner: English Lead

Implementation

- Teach phonics daily using Read, Write, Inc. to ensure strong, consistent progress
- Group children by phonic understanding for targeted teaching and support
- Use Read, Write, Inc. Storybooks matched to children's phonic knowledge
- Develop comprehension through discussion, vocabulary and high-quality texts
- Provide daily opportunities for speaking, listening and vocabulary development
- Encourage early writing using sound knowledge, word building and sentence construction

Review Cycle: Annual

Impact

- Become confident, fluent readers who can decode with accuracy and understanding
- Develop a strong phonic foundation to support future reading and spelling
- Enjoy listening to and talking about stories and non-fiction texts
- Write for a purpose using phonic knowledge
- Build communication, language and literacy skills needed for Year 1 and beyond

Date: _____