
Literacy

Introduction – aims, breakdown of subject (e.g. speaking and listening, reading and writing)

Developing literacy skills is a key focus at Southgate School as we know how essential effective communication is for our young people. From Early Years through to GCSE we ensure that all the areas of Literacy (Speaking and Listening, Reading and Writing) are developed on a daily basis. We use a range of strategies and tools to make sure that all learners are able to fulfil their potential in this vital area.

Implementation – methodology, EYFS, primary, secondary

Literacy is delivered on a daily basis. Every classroom is a language rich environment where communication is focused on explicitly at every opportunity. We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage and then from Year 1 onwards the National Curriculum.

Dedicated Literacy lessons are interactive, play based (where appropriate) and use a range of stimuli in order to engage learners in reading and writing from an early age. Literacy work is highly personalised in order to capture each individual's interests and imagination as well as differentiated for ability, allowing for sufficient challenge and success.

Planning and Assessment

A 3 year cycle long term plan is used for every keys stage to ensure breadth of coverage across both the EYFS and National Curriculum. Individual teachers then produce a medium term plan for every half term detailing the specific activities that will develop specific skills in each area.

Assessment is continuous throughout the year, however at the end of every term teachers formally assess each learner in every strand (Speaking and Listening, Reading and Writing). Assessment can include the use of video, photographs, observations, reading logs as well as written work. Work is collected and added to each learner's portfolio which follows them throughout their journey at Southgate School.

Resources

We use a wide range of resources across school to tailor our teaching to every learner. For example we have a number of reading programmes, including See and Learn (Down's Ed), Read Write Inc. (a phonics approach), Jolly Phonics and Words First. To promote independent writing we encourage the learners to mark make in a range of media (shaving foam or glitter) moving on to using both ICT (including writing programmes such as Clicker 7) as well as handwriting. Speaking and Listening skills are constantly reinforced through adult modelling, small group work and highly structured social interactions. For example every class has daily breakfast and snack routines where social communication is explicitly taught and practiced.

In order to make Literacy as exciting and engaging as possible we try to use a broad range of resources such as ICT, story bags, sensory stories, music and games.

Cross Curricular links

With Literacy being a core subject we know that language and communication is integral to all aspects of the curriculum. In addition to this we plan each half term thematically so that all areas of the curriculum are approached through a particular topic.

Weekly drama lessons are delivered by outside practitioners which support the development of speaking and listening skills as well as building confidence. Role play is also used extensively in the classroom to develop imagination, story sequencing as well as an understanding of how characters feel.

Accreditations

As students move in to Upper School they can complete a variety of accreditations to suit their ability: ASDAN; Entry Level (1,2 and 3); GCSE.