Our Intent Statement:

At Great Finborough Church Primary School, we believe that English is at the heart of learning. From the moment children join our school, we aim to develop confident, articulate and enthusiastic readers, writers and communicators who are able to express themselves effectively and engage meaningfully with the world around them. Through a rich and varied curriculum, children will develop a love of language and literature. They will acquire the knowledge, vocabulary and skills they need to succeed across the curriculum and beyond.

Reading and Phonics

We want every child to become a fluent and confident reader who develops a lifelong love of reading. Teachers ensure that there is a sharp focus on teaching pupils to read from EYFS onwards. Pupils will experience a wide range of high-quality texts, authors, genres and perspectives, enabling them to broaden their vocabulary, develop their imagination and deepen their understanding of themselves and the world.

Writing

In writing, we aim for pupils to become independent, creative and purposeful writers. Children will learn to write accurately and effectively for a range of audiences and purposes, developing increasing control over grammar, punctuation, spellings, vocabulary and structure. They will be encouraged to see themselves as authors and take pride in their work. By closely focusing on the key skills required by the National Curriculum, we follow a clear pathway of progression as pupils advance through the school and build on their knowledge year by year.

Oracy

We recognise the importance of oracy in enabling pupils to think, learn and communicate. Pupils will have regular opportunities to develop their speaking and listening skills, articulate their ideas, listen respectfully to others and participate confidently in discussion.

Our Implementation Statement

Curriculum

Our bespoke English curriculum, focused closely on the National Curriculum, has been created to engage pupils in a range of exciting texts. It follows a clear structure of learning, allowing pupils to embed skills over time.

English is taught to whole classes (EYFC, Years 1 and 2, Years 3 and 4, Years 5 and 6).

Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) have a daily English lesson informed by our school's bespoke English curriculum which covers the National Curriculum. They also have 3 Phonics and reading comprehension sessions a week, using "Little Wandle."

Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) and Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6) have four English lessons a week, alongside additional lessons for reading comprehension (VIPERS and Ninja Comprehension). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are also consolidated in two separate half hour sessions per week.

English lessons are focused closely on a class text and we embed spelling, punctuation and grammar into them, giving pupils the chance to see the skill in action and try it themselves. Teachers regularly model examples to encourage pupils to achieve their best. All writing units build up to regular independent writing opportunities which are celebrated in class, through headteacher awards and with parents through open book events.

Handwriting follows the PenPals scheme and is taught regularly in each year group.

Basic planning and lesson structure for KS1 and KS2

- Recap of previous learning OR introduction to new learning
- Teaching and discussion (I do, We do)
- Paired/Independent work (You do)
- Plenary

Resources are carefully planned and used to support the delivery of all English lessons. They are created by teachers or carefully adapted from high-quality resources such as EdShed.

Monitoring and progress

On entry, EYFS children complete a Reception Baseline Assessment. The children are tracked and assessed frequently against their progress towards achieving the English elements of the Early Learning Goals.

Children in Key Stage 1 and 2 complete termly NTS assessments to track their progress in reading comprehension. This enables teachers to identify gaps to inform future teaching and to enable comparisons of attainment and progress compared to other children nationally. Independent writing is also assessed every half term.

Year 6 children complete the SATS assessments to measure their reading comprehension and spelling, punctuation and grammar knowledge against national standards at the end of their time at our school. Their writing is also assessed against national standards.

Children's individual reading books are closely matched with their level of phonics knowledge and reading ability. Class teachers and Teaching Assistants monitor reading at home and school, and parents are involved through their child's Reading Record book.

SEN and Able, Gifted and Talented:

We aim to enable all pupils to achieve as highly as they can, according to their individual abilities. We will identify which pupils are under-achieving and take steps to improve their attainment and progress. Teachers have dyslexia-friendly classrooms and resources to allow all pupils to access learning. More able pupils will be identified and suitable learning challenges provided. Learning in English will also take into account the needs of individual children, including targets set in their SEN support plans.

Our English Lead and SENDCo work together to make sure pupils with SEND can access the full curriculum. Teachers regularly assess progress and adjust teaching so that every child can learn effectively.

The English Lead, Subject Governor and Head Teacher regularly monitor the children's progress in a variety of ways, such as:

- Pupil voice opportunities
- English book scrutinies including termly writing moderation across all years to check progress and assess next steps for individual pupils
- Lesson observations
- Data analysis

Our Impact Statement

By the time our children leave Great Finborough Church Primary School they will be confident, capable and enthusiastic readers, writers and communicators. Pupils will make progress from their individual starting points and increasingly demonstrate independence, resilience and confidence. They will apply their knowledge of phonics, spelling, grammar, punctuation and vocabulary accurately, and increasingly use these skills to communicate their ideas effectively for a range of purposes and audiences.

Reading and Phonics

Our children will develop a love for reading and acquire strategies to support them in reading increasingly challenging texts with fluency and understanding. They will be able to think critically about the author's choice and the impact on the reader as well as confidently share their opinions using evidence from what they have read.

Writing

In writing, pupils will demonstrate an increasing ability to plan, draft, edit and improve their work. They will make purposeful choices about vocabulary, sentence structure and organisation and take pride in the presentation and quality of their writing. They will be increasingly able to write independently across different genres and for different audiences.

Oracy

Through structured talk, drama and discussion, pupils will be able to explain their ideas clearly and speak confidently in a range of situations. They will be able to justify their opinions and respond appropriately to others.

Ultimately, the impact of our English curriculum is seen in children who leave primary school with the literacy skills, confidence and enthusiasm needed to continue to be successful learners, effective communicators and lifelong readers and writers.