



# Exmoor Link Federation

East Anstey Primary School, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 9JP

Telephone: 01398 341369

Bishops Nympton Primary School, South Molton, EX36 4PU

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Executive Headteacher: Mr T Gurney

## Our English Curriculum

At Exmoor Link Federation Schools, East Anstey Primary School and Bishops Nympton Primary School, we believe that skills in English; reading, writing and speaking and listening, provide the foundations for pupils' achievements throughout the whole curriculum and all other areas of learning, for now and the future.

English is a core subject of the National Curriculum, with reading, writing and speaking and listening being taught and practised in a range of ways and across all subjects.

At Exmoor Link Federation Schools we promote high standards of language and literacy through spoken and written word and by developing their love of literature through widespread reading for pleasure.

We aim for our pupils to:

Be competent in speaking and listening through discussions, presentations and demonstrations relating to their learning

Read, write and communicate confidently, fluently and with good understanding

Develop an interest in books, reading to collect information and for enjoyment

Acquire a wide vocabulary to be used and appreciated within their spoken language, reading and writing

Discuss literature confidently; expressing opinions, using appropriate vocabulary and justifying preferences

Write coherently and confidently using a variety of styles and forms.





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## Reading

### Intent

Reading at Exmoor Link Federation schools is a central part of all curricular areas and is at the heart of our learning and teaching. We teach using high quality texts approved by the Local Authority to encourage children to immerse themselves into books, leading to excellent outcomes. Phonics is emphasised within the early teaching of reading and continued until children have reached a standard that allows them to access texts independently and confidently. Our children are taught and encouraged to read widely across a range of genres to establish an appreciation and genuine love of reading, to gain knowledge across the curriculum and to develop their comprehension skills. We aim for all pupils, by the end of their primary education, to be able to read fluently with confidence.

### Implementation

Our children begin their reading journey with us by using the Essential Letters and Sounds phonic scheme. The teaching of phonics is revised and consolidated through the use of the decodable texts that are sent home as part of our home-school reading system. The children have access to a variety of books including Hero Academy, Project X and Oxford Reading Tree; these are then supplemented with Collins Big Cat books beyond Phase 6 phonic teaching. The children are also encouraged to choose a second book from our well-stocked library, to enjoy alongside their phonic book. We recommend that parents read to and/or with their child for at least ten minutes everyday and encourage phonic books to be read three times. Teachers at Exmoor Link Federation Schools have also pledged to read aloud to their classes daily for ten minutes. Across the school year, teachers will read a variety of texts aloud to their classes including stories, non-fiction texts and poems.

Children are exposed to a variety of reading opportunities within their classroom setting, including reading 1:1 with an adult, within a small group and whole class guided reading sessions. Sessions where children read aloud allow the opportunity for teachers to ensure that our children are taught reading skills beyond decoding and fluency and to ensure they are developing a deeper understanding of the texts they are reading. Teachers provide short periods of independent reading time within the school day, paired reading to encourage reading aloud to one another and once a week, the children take part in Reading Buddies where older children spend some time sharing books with younger children. We also run a yearly Reading Challenge whereby children are encouraged to access 6 new texts in a term to help them develop a knowledge of quality texts across a range of genres.





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## Impact

It is our aim at Exmoor Link Federation schools for children to enjoy reading, to choose to read for pleasure and to develop the skills to enable them to become lifelong readers. We expect that through vast reading experiences and targeted support, all children will have acquired the skills needed to move on to the next stage of their education by the end of each key stage.





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## Writing

### Intent

At Exmoor Link Federation Schools, we believe that all our pupils should be able to effectively communicate their knowledge, ideas, experiences and feelings through their writing. We aim for all of our pupils, regardless of ability, to write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style of writing for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences.

All teachers at our schools believe that every child should and is encouraged to, take pride in the presentation of their writing, in part by developing good, joined handwriting by the time they are ready to move on to secondary school.

All good writers “proofread and perfect” their work overtime so our pupils are taught to identify their own areas of strength and those requiring improvement with growing independence through proofreading and editing their work and through response to teachers marking.

### Implementation

At our schools, we believe that children not only develop as writers through having a sense of audience and purpose, but also by being inspired by quality texts derived from Book Writes; texts that have been carefully selected and recommended by the Local Authority. Teachers supplement the set texts within the writing overview by introducing texts of their choice using their own wealth of knowledge or to compliment children’s interests and current affairs. We use some Talk for Writing techniques, visualisation, role play and discussion as ways to effectively immerse children into new texts.

The children will cover a range of different styles of writing throughout their time at school from developing recipes and instructions to information texts and story writing. We use a range of texts and genres to support the development of childrens’ awareness of an author’s intention which in turn, supports their ability to write for effect with an awareness of the audience.

Each text is used as a basis for learning over a sequence of lessons lasting for several weeks. Each sequence begins with a ‘cold task’; the cold tasks allow teachers the opportunity to assess pupils’ current understanding of a genre before any formal teaching. The areas of strength and those for development identified in the cold task are used to inform the planning and teaching sequence. Teachers use the grammar skills coverage overview to ensure that objectives from the National Curriculum are taught effectively to establish progression within each year group.

Throughout each sequence, texts are explored creatively and a high emphasis is placed upon both modelled and shared writing. We believe children echo what they have learned from teachers and peers





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within their own work. Reading aloud is also a key part of each sequence and we value the process of teachers modelling expressive and fluent reading to the children.

## Impact

The intended impact is that all pupils at Exmoor Link Federation Schools will develop a love for writing and enjoy writing across a range of genres. Pupils of all abilities will be able to succeed in English lessons because learning will be scaffolded appropriately. All pupils will have exposure to a vocabulary rich environment in order to support their ability to adapt their writing based on the context, purpose and audience for each piece. They will acquire knowledge of literary techniques and styles and a respect for the writers who produce them.





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## Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

### Intent

Our intent is to give pupils the knowledge and strategies required to become confident writers, using their knowledge of English grammar to become accurate spellers.

### Implementation

Our schools place high emphasis on enabling our children to develop good phonic skills from Nursery through to Key Stage One, and beyond, when necessary.

We use Essential Letters and Sounds to support our teaching phonics using a consistent approach.

Phonics is taught daily in EYFS and KS1. Children in KS1 also receive 3 weekly SPaG lessons using the Essential Letters and Sound Spelling Programme. The programme provides well structured lesson plans, consistent resources, repetition and regular assessment opportunities to ensure that every child can spell confidently. Key stage one teachers also use the results from the nationwide Year 1 Phonics Screening test to identify gaps in individual children's phonics knowledge and provide further support for them.

Our KS2 children receive 3 weekly SPaG sessions a week following the No Nonsense Spelling scheme of work as well as further discrete spelling, punctuation and grammar teaching within their daily English lessons.

### Impact

We aim for our children to consistently achieve well in the statutory phonics test and develop a secure knowledge of phonics. They move on to apply their SPaG skills within their writing and their reading to a good effect. Our children are taught to produce writing that is grammatically correct and apply spelling rules within their work effectively.

