

# The Oxfordshire Hospital School

## English & Literacy Curriculum Statement



The Oxfordshire Hospital School promotes positive attitudes towards English & literacy through a bespoke, pupil centred approach. By working in partnership with enrolled schools, children's services, and with the pupils in each of our settings, we plan and deliver rich, personalised learning journeys which recognise the wider medical context and prioritise areas for learning which are designed to enable, equip and inspire. At times, the interests of the pupils are explored as a starting point; this in turn, promotes a love for the subject, as well as a desire to learn and progress, whilst promoting engagement and independence.

### Our aims are to:

- Encourage pupils to read widely in order to develop independent, responsive and enthusiastic readers
- Provide a variety of learning experiences so pupils are competent and confident in the use of written English
- Support the development of clarity, confidence and fluency of all pupils in speaking and listening

### Reading

We recognise that reading and the love of reading:

- Develops pupils' reading age/ skills/ breadth of vocabulary to support learning across the curriculum
- Encourages a sense of well being
- Promotes empathy and self awareness
- Can provide a springboard into a unit of work or to connect to the broader curriculum
- Inspires curiosity in the world around us

English lessons give pupils opportunities to explore a variety of fiction, non fiction and different media texts in line with their enrolled school curriculum. They are taught information retrieval skills, encouraged to read critically and express a response to what they have read. OHS staff promote and embed opportunities to develop fluency and comprehension in reading across the curriculum through the use of bespoke strategies addressing each individual's need.

We recognise the importance of teaching phonics and strategies for Early reading and all primary pupils receive support from staff who have received training in this area. We aim to follow the phonics and reading schemes from enrolled schools, wherever possible, in order to support continuity and reintegration. OHS has a wide range of fully accessible and inclusive age appropriate reading materials, including kindles, a 'Read Well' and 'STEM' kindle library and 'Read for Good'

book trolleys. In addition, we have a selection of listening and audio books available. Pupils across all settings are encouraged to read for pleasure.

## **Writing**

We recognise that writing:

- Enhances emotional intelligence
- Develops thinking skills
- Improves academic performance
- Increases the ability to vary the formality of vocabulary and expression and the ability to engage with and affect the world around us
- Enriches expression and imagination
- Develops general knowledge

Pupils are encouraged to take pleasure in writing and to gain confidence in their own abilities. They are given opportunities to write for a wide range of purposes and in a variety of forms; developing their sense of appropriate style and their control of language. Planning, drafting and editing of work is encouraged in all years. Technical accuracy is encouraged and the need for good presentation and legible handwriting, as appropriate, is emphasised. Spelling and grammar are taught according to each individual's level and needs. We believe that the breadth of a pupil's vocabulary is a key factor in their ability to achieve across the curriculum. All staff teach strategies for learning new vocabulary and embed opportunities for pupils to learn new vocabulary across the curriculum.

## **Speaking and Listening**

We recognise that speaking and listening:

- Enhances learning and cognitive development
- Allows pupils to use language to effectively work together
- Encourages pupils to describe the world, making sense of life's experiences
- Can be used as a tool for thinking

Small group and/or 1:1 teaching offers opportunities to explore ideas through speaking & listening across the curriculum. Staff at OHS are skilled in developing opportunities for focused discussion and questioning beginning in early years and primary where the emphasis is on role play and group work to encourage oracy, listening and social skills. Pupils are encouraged to speak confidently and fluently in a variety of situations and to listen attentively, taking into account the views of others. There are also opportunities for pupils to critically discuss fiction, non-fiction and their own work. We aim to develop self-esteem and confidence in speaking by acknowledging success in this area.