



Bunscoill Rhumsaa

Literacy Policy

At Bunscoill Rhumsaa we believe that Literacy is a fundamental life skill. Literacy develops children's ability to speak, listen, read and write for a wide variety of purposes. This policy is based on requirements of the Isle of Man's E4L: Essentials for Learning strategy and the EYFS: Early Years Foundation Stage Framework.

AIMS

It is our aim to help our pupils to learn to learn; we believe that children should develop an understanding of how they learn most effectively, reflect on their own progress and be involved in identifying their own 'next steps', thus developing the skills needed to be a successful learner for life.

We also encourage parental co operation in all aspects of Literacy.

As a staff we aim to keep abreast of all new initiatives in Literacy and to liaise regularly with the Literacy Advisers.

At Bunscoill Rhumsaa we strive for children to:-

- read and write with confidence, fluency and understanding, orchestrating a range of independent strategies to self-monitor and correct.
- have an interest in books and read for enjoyment.
- understand a range of text types and genres – be able to write in a variety of styles and forms appropriate to the situation.
- be developing the powers of imagination, inventiveness and critical awareness.
- have a suitable technical vocabulary to articulate their responses.
- develop their speech in order that they are able to express themselves clearly, audibly and confidently in different situations, using standard English where appropriate.
- develop their knowledge of grammar and punctuation.
- listen attentively so that they can understand and respond appropriately to others.
- learn to spell words correctly and to acquire the habit of using dictionaries in order to check spellings.

SUBJECT ORGANISATION

A variety of pupil groupings and teaching methods will be used to match the abilities, ages and interests of the pupils.

Children with Special Educational Needs will be identified and expectation levels adjusted as appropriate.

Targets may be set for specific areas of the English curriculum in discussion with the S.E.N. Co-ordinator.

Staff will regularly monitor areas of work covered in each year group and adjust their Programmes of Study accordingly to ensure that continuity and progression are attained throughout the school.

SPEAKING AND LISTENING

The Four Strands of Speaking and Listening: Speaking; Listening; Group Discussion and Interaction and Drama permeate the whole curriculum. Interactive teaching strategies are used to engage all pupils in order to raise reading and writing standards. Children are encouraged to develop effective communication skills in readiness for later life.

READING

In order to enable the children to read with fluency, accuracy, understanding and enjoyment they are encouraged to read daily as part of their classroom learning. A variety of rich and stimulating texts will be provided, supported by an environment where print is obviously valued and enjoyed. We also encourage all children to read at home either alone or to an adult on a regular basis.

Guided reading (specific, adult-led reading lessons delivered to small groups) is carried out regularly in order to develop the children's reading and comprehension skills. You can find out more information in our booklet "Bunscoil Rhumsaa's Guide to Guided Reading".

WRITING

Writing techniques taught during Literacy lessons are expected to be used across other subjects. Recount, instructions, explanation, non-chronological reports, persuasion and discussion, for example, should be planned into all other subjects where appropriate. Opportunities are given for the children to write in different contexts and to experiment with written forms independently.

Handwriting is taught explicitly throughout the school and pride in presentation is expected.

Assessment in writing is continuous throughout the school year, and although on occasion children may be asked to produce a piece of writing for the specific purpose of assessment the predominant means of assessing children's progress will be by regular monitoring of their classwork.

THE USE OF ICT

Opportunities to use ICT to support teaching and learning in Literacy will be planned for and used as appropriate.

ASSESSMENT

Work will be assessed in line with the Assessment Policy.

The Reception class children are assessed by a range of continuous assessments carried out throughout the year based on EYFS Profile.

Writing is levelled using the Isle of Man level descriptors and moderated in school to check consistency of teachers' judgements after they have made their assessments. This is carried out in order to identify and resolve any differences and to agree school standards.

Speaking and Listening and Reading will be assessed against National Curriculum levels throughout the year. Moderation will take place as appropriate.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

All children are provided with equal access to the English curriculum. We aim to provide suitable learning opportunities regardless of gender, ethnicity or home background.

To be reviewed September 2020