

English at Westgarth

Why is English important?

Our main aim is to ensure every single child becomes primary literate and progresses in the areas of reading, writing, speaking and listening. We believe that a secure basis in literacy skills is crucial to a high quality education and will give our children the tools they need to participate fully as a member of society.

What does English look like at Westgarth?

At Westgarth Primary School, English and the teaching of English is the foundation of our curriculum. We believe that a quality Literacy (English) curriculum should develop children's love of reading, writing and discussion.

All children from EYFS to Year 6 are provided with many opportunities to develop and apply their skills across our creative curriculum. To support children in moving towards independent writing, we provide a wide range of activities including modelled, shared and guided writing, peer assessment and discussion.

At Westgarth we use literature as a context to explore other cultures and utilise links to our local community wherever possible, including visits to Marske Library. We also ensure that cross-curricular links with topic work are woven into our writing.

Literacy in EYFS:

Literacy is at the heart of our Early Years Curriculum. Our aim is to provide our children with high quality stories and a wide range of vocabulary and texts to ensure that they are able to develop a love of reading and to become and lifelong reader. Opportunities for songs and rhymes are a fundamental part of developing our children's phonemic awareness in preparation for reading.

What do we learn in English?

Our curriculum closely follows the aims of the National Curriculum for English 2014. In addition to daily literacy lessons, children excel in early reading through the use of the RWI programme from Nursery - year 2 and continue to develop a range of reading skills, as well as a love of reading. We use a wide variety of quality texts and resources to motivate and inspire our children. All pupils at Westgarth are encouraged to take pride in the presentation of their writing, in part by developing a good, joined, handwriting style by the time they move to secondary school. We believe that all good writers refine and edit their writing over time, so we want children to develop independence in being able to identify their own areas for improvement in all pieces of writing, editing their work effectively during and after the writing process.

What do our children think?

I love writing at school because it makes my beautiful words into a story. **Roxy Year 3**

Reading is fun because you learn new words.
Gracie Year 2

I love reading at school because all the books are really interesting and super enjoyable.

Isobel Year 5