



Intent

The National Curriculum for English 2014 aims to ensure that all pupils acquire a wide vocabulary. A secure knowledge of a wide range of words, as well as the ability to use them appropriately, empowers children to think and learn about the world around them, to verbalise their emotions, socialise effectively with people, imagine and wonder.

At Alverton, we aim to develop pupils' vocabulary from the earliest stages of learning. Many children enter our school with speech and language needs; language is often delayed and active working vocabulary limited. A wide vocabulary improves all areas of communication – listening, speaking, reading and writing and so the teaching of vocabulary is a primary feature in all subjects. From the very beginning of their educational journey at Alverton, children are immersed in a language rich environment which promotes effective communication and provides a wealth of opportunities to stimulate vocabulary development.

We recognise that extending a pupils' vocabulary is part of their cultural capital and ensure that we provide pupils with a broad range of new language, both academic and creative, through carefully selected books, stories and poems.

Implementation

Alongside the teaching of knowledge and skills, we teach pupils a range of vocabulary associated with curriculum subjects and learning areas. We use a range of strategies to develop and extend pupils' vocabulary including planning activities to deepen understanding, providing definitions, modelling words (for example in shared writing), using words in context, displaying words in the classroom and using knowledge organisers to highlight and develop language. Pupils' knowledge of language is gained from, for example, stories, plays, poetry, non-fiction and textbooks. They are encouraged to explore, embrace and celebrate new vocabulary and are challenged to consider the impact that thoughtfully chosen words can have on their spoken and written work.

Teachers take the opportunities to enhance pupils' vocabulary which arise naturally from their reading, writing and speaking. As pupils' vocabulary increases, teachers show them how to understand the relationships between words, how to understand nuances in meaning, and how to develop their understanding of, and ability to use, figurative language. As children move through the school, the focus on word reading and comprehension supports the development of vocabulary and pupils are encouraged to apply their knowledge of etymology and morphology to understand the meaning of new words they meet where appropriate.

A strong culture of reading and celebrating language exists across the school. Vocabulary is taught daily through developing an interest in, and love of, words and teachers celebrate and emphasise an enjoyment in, and understanding of, language.

Additional support is provided for pupils whose oral language skills are less developed and for those whose written skills may be weaker, a strong focus is placed on allowing them to express themselves orally, in order to successfully showcase their knowledge of vocabulary.

Impact

Children at Alverton School have the ability to say what they mean and to communicate clearly, considering the choice of words that they use and the impact that they will have. They understand what other people are saying, have good comprehension of what they are reading and take every opportunity to explore, embrace and celebrate words and their meanings.