



St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School

Vocabulary, Grammar & Punctuation Rationale



Vocabulary, Grammar & Punctuation

Intent

At St Cuthbert's, we believe that vocabulary, grammar and punctuation are fundamental to becoming confident readers, writers and communicators. We are committed to providing a language-rich English curriculum that enables every child to develop the knowledge and understanding needed to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively.

We recognise that vocabulary is the foundation of literacy and underpins success across the entire curriculum. Therefore, we explicitly teach ambitious vocabulary from the Early Years onwards, ensuring children develop a broad and deep understanding of words, their meanings and how they can be used in different contexts. Through high-quality literature, purposeful discussion and rich learning experiences, children acquire the language they need to think critically, articulate ideas and express themselves with increasing confidence.

Our curriculum is carefully sequenced to ensure that vocabulary, grammar and punctuation build progressively from children's starting points. Grammar and punctuation are not taught in isolation but as tools that enable children to communicate meaning effectively. Our aim is that every child leaves our school with the knowledge, confidence and accuracy to apply vocabulary, grammar and punctuation purposefully across the curriculum and throughout later life.

Implementation

Vocabulary, grammar and punctuation are taught explicitly through a carefully sequenced curriculum that builds progressively from the Early Years to Year 6. High-quality texts form the foundation of English lessons, providing meaningful contexts in which children encounter ambitious vocabulary, grammatical structures and punctuation in authentic language.

Vocabulary is introduced before new learning wherever possible and is explicitly taught, revisited and applied across English and the wider curriculum. Teachers carefully select ambitious vocabulary, enabling children to deepen their understanding of concepts while developing confidence in spoken and written communication. Rich discussion, modelled language and purposeful opportunities for repetition ensure new vocabulary is retained and used accurately.

Grammar and punctuation are taught through high-quality text-based learning and explicitly modelled within the writing process. Daily sentence accuracy lessons provide regular opportunities to revisit prior learning, introduce new concepts and develop automaticity through frequent practice. Children are taught not only to identify grammatical features but to understand how authors make purposeful language choices to create meaning and impact for different audiences.

Oracy is central to our approach. Children are encouraged to use newly acquired vocabulary when discussing texts, explaining their thinking and justifying their ideas. Teachers model precise language and create regular opportunities for children to rehearse vocabulary orally before applying it confidently within their writing.

Children are encouraged to use age-appropriate resources, including dictionaries and thesauruses, to develop independence as learners and writers. Ongoing formative assessment enables teachers to

In Love with Christ: Be the Best I can. Be Kind to One Another. Amen.



St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School

Vocabulary, Grammar & Punctuation Rationale



identify misconceptions quickly, adapt teaching and provide targeted support, ensuring all children make strong progress from their individual starting points.

Impact

Through our vocabulary, grammar and punctuation curriculum, children develop the knowledge, understanding and confidence needed to communicate effectively across the curriculum.

Our children:

- develop a rich and increasingly ambitious vocabulary that they use confidently in both spoken and written language;
- demonstrate secure understanding and accurate application of grammar and punctuation appropriate to their age;
- explain, justify and communicate their ideas clearly using precise and purposeful language;
- apply vocabulary, grammar and punctuation effectively across all areas of the curriculum;
- make thoughtful language choices to engage different audiences and achieve different purposes;
- leave our school as articulate, confident communicators who understand the power of language and its importance throughout their education and future lives.

In Love with Christ: Be the Best I can. Be Kind to One Another. Amen.