

# **Reading, Writing, Vocabulary, Literacy & Oracy Policy**

Amended: October 2022

Approved by Trustees: October 2022

Review date: October 2023

Reviewing Panel: Standards, Staffing and Curriculum

At Woodlands School, literacy is at the core of all we do. Our aim is to equip all of our pupils with an excellent level of literacy in order to prepare them for the demands of the wider world. We believe every pupil should have the opportunity to become proficient readers, concise orators and be competent in their use of vocabulary. These skills underpin Woodlands' approaches to teaching and learning, both in and out of the classroom and across every subject consistently.

Woodlands curriculum is supported by developing pupils' abilities to speak, listen, read and write for a wide range of purposes, including using language to learn, communicate, think, explore and organise. Helping pupils to express themselves clearly, through development of vocabulary, both orally and in writing, enhances and enriches teaching and learning in all subjects and prepares the pupils for life after school. We believe that 'good' literacy improves the future of everyone in society and forms the foundations of success in the wider world. Our pupils are given every opportunity to excel.

We also offer the opportunity for 6 pupils to be literacy ambassadors, providing leadership opportunity and offering pupils a level of responsibility.

### **Support for Parents / Carers**

We offer parents/carers the opportunity to meet with specialists to discuss aspects of literacy and how to best support their child if they wish to.

Newsletters are also sent home to parents each half-term outlining upcoming events and recent successes, giving KS3 and KS4 reading recommendations and outlining some benefits to reading.

We also have a small bookshop at all parents' evenings and at the year 6 induction evening with a specialist who can advise parents and pupils on age-appropriate and relevant literature.

## **Whole School Literacy**

### **Reading**

- All year 7, 8 and 9 pupils are expected to have a reading book with them as part of their essential equipment.
- From September 2022, every year 7 pupil is gifted a new reading book to encourage a love of reading and to welcome them to Woodlands School.
- All year groups are given specific lesson time to read.
- All years 7, 8 and 9 pupils take a reading age test in the first half-term of the academic year, with a follow up intervention programme where necessary, to help pupils to improve their reading skills.
- Years 7, 8 and 9 pupils take part in weekly Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) time. DEAR is a reading initiative aimed at getting pupils reading for enjoyment. Staff also read during this time to demonstrate a positive attitude and a love of reading.
- Tutor Time 'Reading for Pleasure' – All year 7 and 8 pupils have 2 sessions per week during tutor time to read a book together as a group, with extensive follow up activities to allow pupils to reflect on the story.
- Tutor time focus on Literacy for year 9 and 10 students, with a link to current affairs.
- World Book Day activities.
- Some new books have been purchased for our Opportunities Hub which incorporate current and relevant themes for our pupils.
- Extra-Curricular poetry and book clubs for KS3 pupils.

### **Writing and Vocabulary**

- Teachers use a SPaG marking code – identifying areas for improvement. This has been reviewed and made more succinct from September 2022.

- All KS3 and KS4 exercise books have SPaG guidance stickers on covers for quick reference.
- All classrooms across the school have key words and subject specific terminology displayed.
- All classrooms across the school display basic SPaG rules.
- All subjects teach subject specific vocabulary and spelling.
- There is provision of regular opportunities for extended writing in every subject.
- Encouragement to consider ambitious synonyms when writing in all subjects.
- Lesson starters within English that focus on SPaG revision.
- Word of the week in years 7 and 8 form times including a definition of the word, synonyms, antonyms, and example sentences to encourage a wider repertoire of vocabulary.


## Spelling

- Lesson starters across whole school that focus on subject specific spelling.
- Tutor time Spelling Bee Competition for years 7 and 8, as well as other interactive quizzes and activities to encourage pupils to spell.
- Tassomai Quizzing App – tests knowledge on SPaG/KS3 English Reading and Writing Activities


## Oracy

Here at Woodlands we aim to make every pupil efficient and competent orators. We firmly encourage our young people to be free and independent thinkers which sees them build self-confidence when expressing thoughts and opinions.

- All pupils in lesson discussion and debate are expected to give responses in full sentences across the curriculum.
- All subjects have spoken activities embedded within Schemes of Learning.
- Tutor time focus on Oracy for year 9 and 10 students, with a link to current affairs.
- Visiting speakers in year group assemblies.
- We offer year 10 pupils the chance to take part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge.
- Presentations are embedded in whole school SOLs giving all pupils the opportunity to speak and express opinion.
- Pupils are urged to repeat or rephrase poorly constructed sentences whenever possible.
- Theatre visits offer cultural enrichment and pupils get to see theatrical oracy in motion.
- From October 2022, we will offer public speaking to all year groups, which will provide pupils with an opportunity to develop their oracy skills.
- A CPD session on encouraging oracy in the classroom is offered to staff.

Signed:   
Head Teacher

Dated: 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Signed:   
Chair of Trustees

Dated: 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022