

English at St Mark's

The ability to communicate orally and in writing, and to be communicated with, is the key to all learning.

Literacy is therefore central to our curriculum and is taught daily in order to build skills in spelling, grammar and handwriting incrementally. Pupils are taught, through reading, about different genres of writing and their features and purposes such as reading a recipe to cook and presenting a report in Science. They have the opportunity to use their skills both to show and develop their learning across the curriculum.

Oral communication is vital and children are encouraged to speak to each other, as well as adults, to develop learning. In lessons across the curriculum (Philosophy and Personal Social and Health Education, Mathematics are some key examples) they are taught to explain their reasoning and to disagree respectfully with others, understanding that different viewpoints are fine and to express theirs with clarity and confidence. A key opportunity to practice this is for the annual Youthspeaks competition; all pupils in Class 1 write a speech and the best are selected to take forward in teams.

Daily reading from a stimulating library, which is supported by adults in school and at home, ensures development of skills and confidence. We want our pupils to be keen readers with a love of books for what they offer in terms of how they can teach you about the world, alter your thinking and the feelings they can evoke.