

English

Intent

At Clara Grant, we want our children to leave us as confident and fluent speakers, readers and writers. Children are empowered by a high-quality, structured and creative English curriculum so that they can communicate not just ideas, but also emotions to others. They understand that there are different purposes and audiences and can adapt the way they communicate according to these.

Children at Clara Grant develop a passion for reading, where reading is used not just to develop their subject knowledge, but widen their understanding of their own cultures as well as other cultures. Through their love of reading, children build their emotional intelligence and grow their imagination. Children experience the shared reading of a broad range of core texts and be motivated to read widely both inside and outside of school. They will build a strong understanding that reading is for gaining information across the curriculum and for pleasure.

In writing, we want our children to be able to plan, revise and evaluate their writing. To be able to do this effectively, pupils will focus on developing both effective transcription and composition. Teachers will teach ambitious vocabulary drawn from the books and texts read, as well as the wider curriculum and the world around them so that children have a wide vocabulary when they enter secondary school and are able to make connections between texts, their lives and the wider world. Children's strong understanding of grammar and transcriptions skills enable them as confident writers.

Implementation

Children at Clara Grant read a wide range of texts to build knowledge and for pleasure, and are taught to write for a range of purposes and audiences with strong links across the curriculum and to local and global issues. Reading is brought to life through the use of quality core texts which provide children with rich experiences to discuss, make links and share and build upon previous knowledge. A rigorous programme of systematic synthetic phonics, Read, Write Inc., provides children with the tools to decode, before building fluency and the ability to comprehend and question independently. As children move up through the school, they are taught to retrieve, summarise, infer, predict, discuss meaning and make comparisons and links. Writing is taught through the Talk 4 Writing approach; in this approach children internalise the language structures needed to write through 'talking the text'. The approach moves from dependence towards independence with the teacher using shared and guided teaching to develop the ability in children to write creatively and powerfully. Spelling, vocabulary and grammar are integrated into each English unit.

Impact

We use a variety of strategies to evaluate the knowledge, skills and understanding that our children gain as they progress from Nursery to Year 6:

- CPD to ensure that teacher pedagogy and assessment is secure.
- Regular feedback marking and pupil voice feedback.
- Subject monitoring, including book looks and learning walks.
- Regular low stakes knowledge assessments, using a range of creative approaches.
- Phase moderation to ensure secure, termly teacher judgements in writing.
- PIRA tests, Rising Stars SPAG tests and past SATs papers to support our teachers' assessment in Reading and SPAG.
- Half-termly phonics assessments to ensure our children are provided with appropriate challenge and support.

Children make good progress across all areas in English in relation to their starting points at the beginning of each key stage. The percentage of children reaching the expected standard in Reading and Writing at the end of KS2 is in line with or above the national average. Children with additional needs make rapid progress through accurately identified interventions. Teachers and TAs deliver targeted reading and writing interventions based on pupil assessment to close any gaps and ensure that all children are ready to move on. Judgments of children's reading and writing and progress is consistent with Local Authority Moderators.

Enrichment

During their time at Clara Grant, our children are given many opportunities to participate in a wide range of learning experiences beyond their classroom. These experiences including trips to museums, the theatre and community projects which provide children with stimulating real-life experiences to support their reading, writing and speaking development. They will meet and work with authors and build their knowledge of literature. English learning is practised and embedded across the curriculum. Speaking and writing outcomes draw from knowledge gained in other subjects and English skills are used to develop learning in other subjects. Children learn to collaborate and learn from each other to achieve outcomes. English enrichment activities at Clara Grant include:

- *Shakespeare Schools Project*, performing a Shakespeare Play at *Stratford Circus Theatre*.
- Visits to *Stratford East Theatre*, the *Discovery Centre*, *The Globe*.
- World Book Day.
- *Lloyd's Reading Partners*.
- Visiting Theatre Company (*Chaplin's*).
- Visiting authors.
- Tower Hamlets Writing Competition.
- Tower Hamlets Library Services.
- Collaborations with *Eastside* (visiting story-tellers, national poetry slam)
- *Travelling Book Fair*.
- *The Readathon*
- Workshop Series for Parents (supporting reading at home)
- Library Club
- Collaborations with *Fern Street Family Centre* (Story telling sessions)