



Parkside House School
English Curriculum Statement

Intent

At Parkside House School, the English curriculum is designed to provide students with safe, supportive, and meaningful opportunities to engage with and create a wide variety of texts. Through exposure to a diverse range of reading materials, students will develop literacy skills for both meaning and enjoyment, as well as the reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills needed for life beyond school. Teaching is underpinned by a trauma-informed approach that recognises students' individual experiences and needs, prioritising emotional safety, consistency, and positive relationships. Students will be supported to practise reading at an appropriate pace, with additional scaffolding and intervention where required. Writing skills will be developed through creative and structured tasks that allow students to express ideas, thoughts, and emotions in a supportive environment. Speaking and listening skills will be nurtured through respectful, well-managed class discussions that encourage confidence, self-expression, and active listening.

Implementation

Students will explore a wide and diverse range of texts, including stories, poems, and non-fiction, from different time periods and cultures around the world. Texts are carefully selected and adapted to be accessible and engaging, with sensitivity to potential triggers and individual student needs. Learning activities are structured, predictable, and flexible, enabling students to feel secure and confident in their learning. Students will engage with texts in a variety of ways, including reading aloud, discussion, creative responses, and practical activities. Writing is practised for a range of purposes, such as to entertain, inform, explain, or reflect, with clear guidance and encouragement throughout the process. Speaking and listening skills are developed through talk-for-learning strategies, including guided discussions, paired talk, and sharing of ideas, ensuring all students feel heard, valued, and supported.

Impact

Through the English curriculum, students will build essential reading, writing, and speaking and listening skills that support both academic progress and personal development. Students will develop confidence as readers, become more effective and purposeful writers, and improve their ability to communicate ideas clearly and appropriately. They will learn to listen attentively, respond thoughtfully, and participate positively in discussions. For some students, this will include developing the skills and resilience needed to undertake formal examinations such as Entry Level, Functional Skills, or GCSE, supporting successful transitions to their next steps when they leave Parkside House School.