



St Peter & St Paul
Catholic Voluntary Academy
Pro Petro Paulo Patria

Policy Document
Status: Approved
Confidentiality level: Public

Literacy Policy

Policy Ref No. PL1

'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full'

John 10:10

The Ethos of St Peter and St Paul

"Our school is a community where Jesus Christ is our role model and his message the guiding principle behind all we do.

Every member of our community is responsible for creating an environment that is caring, fair and respectful of each individual.

We develop our potential, celebrate our talents and go forward together in faith."

Christ is the foundation of everything we do and the Gospels provide us with our influence and inspiration. We are therefore committed to promoting:

The uniqueness of the individual

We believe that every person is a unique individual, created in God's image and loved by Him. We are therefore committed to treat every person with equality of esteem and the respect and dignity due to a child of God.

The search for excellence

We are called to seek perfection in all aspects of our lives. We celebrate the enrichment of the total community, which flows from diversity of age, gender, racial and social origins, abilities, culture and religion. We are therefore committed to ensure that all are to be given every opportunity to develop their talents to the full.

The education of the whole person

We offer young people the experience of life in a community founded on Gospel values and working in harmony. Through this and a variety of educational experiences and interactions, we aim to prepare young people for a life working with others in communities which may be diverse socially, culturally and religiously. We recognise that it is also important to help pupils to understand their own ethnic identity and cultural heritage as well as helping them to understand that of others (irrespective of whether the school serves or is located in an ethnically diverse community).

The education of all

We have the duty of care for all to ensure that we provide for those who are socially, academically, physically, emotionally or financially disadvantaged.

Moral principles

Our belief in the Gospel message commits us to be in the forefront of the movement for social and racial justice and harmony. We believe this is fundamental to the common good. We aim to prepare our young people to serve as witnesses to these moral and spiritual values in the wider world.

Consequently, we still strive to ensure that:

any person recruited to the service of the school, whether as a member of staff or as a volunteer, is made fully aware of our aims and objectives and required to support them;

children who are admitted to the school and their families are fully aware of our aims and objectives and undertake to support them;

all of our structures and policies are evaluated and kept under constant review in order to see that no individual is subject, in any way, to unlawful discrimination, whether intentional or unintentional, and to ensure that all are enabled to reach their full potential.

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Rationale

The development of an effective literacy skillset (reading, writing, speaking and listening) is essential to achieving a fulfilling and enriched life. We use these skills daily to communicate with, and make sense of, the world around us. At St Peter and St Paul's we understand that, at the heart of improving literacy skills, is the opportunity to practise them. Improving literacy can have an impact on the students' self-esteem, motivation, behaviour and attainment. It allows them to learn independently and is empowering.

Our curriculum is underpinned by developing students' abilities to speak, listen, read and write for a range of purposes, including using language to learn, communicate, think, explore and organise. Helping students 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 student for life after school

We believe that reading, and particularly reading for pleasure, has a direct impact on students' development – both cognitively and in social communication. We aim to create a culture of reading which encourages pupils to read for pleasure as well as for academic purposes. Through the use of a reading programme at Key Stage 3, we aim to promote reading as an enjoyable hobby. This will then be developed further through the use of book groups for discussion of books and to promote new genres and books for all members of the community to take an interest in.

Aims

- Ensure all staff are supported and aware of the importance of literacy in all subject areas; ensure all staff are aware of the ways in which their work contributes to the development of students' literacy.
- Increase students' standards of achievement and literacy across the curriculum.
- Promote knowledge and understanding of the students' standards of achievement and assessment in literacy across the curriculum, and the identification of any areas of strength and weakness.
- Develop a shared understanding, between all staff, of the role of language in students' learning and how work in different subjects can contribute to and benefit from the development of their ability to communicate effectively (both in school and in preparation for life).
- Recognise that language is central to students' sense of identity belonging and growth.
- Develop students' confidence and ability to express themselves.
- Support staff to implement effective literacy development and wider achievement across the school.

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Key Requirements of Implementation

Reading

Helps students to learn from sources beyond their immediate experience and inspires them to acquire knowledge.

- To create an environment where reading is promoted across the school.
- To provide time for all students to read.
- To support reading through a variety of resources.
- To promote reading in non-school hours.
- To use the AR programme to ensure all Key Stage 3 pupils read regularly and widely and to work on maintaining this through Key Stage 4.

Writing

Helps pupils to sustain and order thought.

- To provide students with a variety of challenging tasks.
- To provide students with creative writing outlets.
- To support writing with frames or scaffolds where needed, and to ensure modelling is used effectively and successfully.
- To ensure SPaG is supported and checked in all subjects.

Speaking and listening

Helps pupils to prepare, reflect, revise and evaluate the tasks they have undertaken and on the things other people have said, written or done.

- To raise awareness of the importance of speaking and listening across the curriculum.
- To support all departments in embedding speaking and listening within their subject area.

Promoting Literacy at St Peter and St Paul

At SSPP whole school literacy is driven by the Literacy Coordinator in conjunction with the English department. However, it is the collective responsibility of all staff in all curriculum areas to ensure that literacy is constantly addressed to improve standards and raise levels of attainment.

Responsibilities

- A high profile given to the importance of literacy.
- Teachers will take every opportunity to provide students with the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to read, write, speak and listen effectively.
- Providing additional scaffolding for those pupils with identified weaknesses.

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- The Literacy Intervention Teacher will support departments in the implementation of strategies and encourage departments to share good practice.
- The Literacy Intervention Teacher will regularly monitor students' progress in literacy and the impact of literacy interventions.
- The support of parents in encouraging their children to develop their literacy skills through reading for pleasure at home.
- Students to take responsibility for recognising their own weaknesses and making improvements.

Speaking and Listening

All staff will:

- lead by example, ensuring Standard English is used at all times and is expected in response;
- challenge students using slang or colloquialisms where it is not appropriate;
- encourage students to correct their own speech when errors are pointed out;
- create opportunities for talk in a range of contexts and forms in lessons: small group discussions, paired discussions, individual contributions etc.

Writing

All staff will:

- ensure high standards of presentation are expected;
- model pieces of writing so that students understand what is expected of them in that style of writing - e.g. correct choice of structure and tone;
- use dot marking and SST to encourage students to correct their own writing in DIRT lessons;
- take opportunities to expand vocabulary and range of expression;
- insist on the use of full sentences within texts where appropriate;
- take opportunities for peer literacy marking;

Reading

All staff will:

- provide opportunities for reading in class, in groups and individually;
- encourage reading aloud in lessons;
- set reading and research tasks as part of class or homework;
- promote skimming and scanning skills in lessons;
- develop skills in: locating and retrieving information; selecting and interpreting information; collating material from a variety of texts etc.
- take every opportunity to promote the enjoyment of reading.

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Marking

All staff will:

- follow the marking policy for literacy, including dot marking;
- encourage pupils to make their own corrections in lessons through use of DIRT;
- encourage peer marking in lessons for literacy and provide opportunities for students to support each other's literacy;
- take opportunities to praise the use of effective and accurate use of literacy skills.