**English at The Academy at St James**

**Intent**

At The Academy at St James we believe that a quality English curriculum should ignite curiosity and develop children’s love of reading, writing and discussion. We have a rigorous and well organised English curriculum that provides many purposeful opportunities for reading, writing and discussion. Our curriculum closely follows the aims of the National Curriculum for English 2014 to enable all children to:

● read easily, fluently and with good understanding

● develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information

● acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language

● appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage

● write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences

● use discussion in order to learn; they should be able to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas

● are competent in the arts of speaking and listening, making formal presentations, demonstrating to others and participating in debate.

These aims are embedded across our English lessons and the wider curriculum. We will provide the means for children to develop a secure knowledge-base in English, which follows a clear pathway of progression as they advance through the primary curriculum. Rigorous assessment and review will ensure that we are able to provide targeted support so that all children experience success in English; we believe that a secure basis in literacy skills is crucial to a high quality education and will give our children the tools they need to participate fully as a member of society.

**Christian Values, Cultural Capital and Pupil Premium enhancements**

Our English curriculum provides opportunities for all to access learning and acquire the important knowledge they need to prepare them for life in the wider world. We believe that students deserve a broad and ambitious English curriculum, rich in skills and knowledge, which prepares them well for future learning or employment. Our English curriculum also builds on their understanding of the importance of Christian and British values, as well as improves their spiritual, social, moral and cultural understanding. We take into consideration pupils own experiences and values and use these as discussion points to support learning.

To enrich the English curriculum, the school regularly invites authors in to talk to work with the children. During these workshops, the authors share with the children their expertise and knowledge. We also join in national and local writing competitions to further enrich the curriculum and to promote extended writing opportunities. We celebrate the children’s writing weekly with our writer of the week awards, the children’s work is celebrated in whole school assemblies and published online using Pobble. The school year is also filled with special super learning to further promote and develop a love of English such as World Book Day.