



English Curriculum Rationale

At Edgewood Academy, the English curriculum is carefully designed as a bespoke, therapeutic, and technology-integrated programme that meets the unique needs of our primary-aged pupils with complex SEND. Recognising that many students arrive with gaps in their prior learning—often due to previous unsuitable educational settings or the impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)—our curriculum is intentionally crafted to bridge these gaps, support transition, and foster holistic development.

Our curriculum aligns with the National Curriculum requirements by covering the statutory components of English: reading (decoding and comprehension), writing (composition and transcription), speaking, and listening. However, the delivery is adapted through a therapeutic lens that prioritises emotional regulation, engagement, and personalised learning pathways. This approach ensures pupils not only acquire foundational literacy skills but also develop confidence and resilience in communication.

The integration of a 1:1 iPad learning environment enables personalised, accessible, and creative learning experiences, empowering pupils to engage with texts and express themselves in multimodal ways. This technology-supported approach facilitates differentiated instruction, allowing teaching to be tailored to individual EHCP targets and cognitive profiles, thus promoting meaningful progress at each pupil's own pace.

Our curriculum is aspirational in that it aims to unlock each child's personal potential, fostering curiosity, self-belief, and ownership of learning. By embedding therapeutic strategies alongside rigorous literacy teaching, we enable pupils to overcome barriers related to trauma and SEND, preparing them for reintegration into mainstream settings or future educational pathways. The curriculum also builds cultural and social capital by connecting pupils with diverse texts and communication contexts, enhancing empathy and social awareness.

This bespoke English curriculum reflects Edgewood Academy's mission: to provide a safe, supportive, and inspiring environment where every pupil can grow academically, socially, and emotionally. It directly supports our school improvement priorities by



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deepening the integration of therapeutic practice with technology, ensuring personalised and inclusive learning that drives progress and wellbeing.

Whole School Aims

The English curriculum at Edgewood Academy is intrinsically linked to our school's vision and values: **SAFE, SUPPORTED, INSPIRED.**

- **Safe to Grow:** The curriculum is delivered within a nurturing, trauma-informed framework that creates a secure environment for pupils to develop literacy skills without fear or frustration.
- **Inspired to Innovate:** Through the use of 1:1 iPads and creative digital tools, pupils are encouraged to explore language and communication innovatively, becoming confident and curious learners.
- **Connected to Community:** English learning is contextualised to help pupils make meaningful connections with their families, local community, and wider world, fostering social understanding and cultural capital.
- **Rooted in Excellence:** High expectations and personalised goals challenge pupils to achieve meaningful progress, reflecting our commitment to excellence tailored to each individual's needs.

By embedding these principles, the English curriculum supports our core aims of unlocking personal potential, building social and cultural capital, and preparing pupils for future success, fully embodying the ethos of Edgewood Academy.

Subject Vision

We teach English at Edgewood Academy because communication is fundamental to every aspect of life and learning. Our intent is that every pupil develops the ability to understand, interpret, and express ideas confidently and creatively, regardless of their starting point or barriers related to SEND and trauma.



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Our vision for English is to:

- Provide a therapeutic, personalised curriculum that bridges gaps caused by previous disrupted education or unmet needs.
- Equip pupils with essential literacy skills that enable them to access the wider curriculum and participate meaningfully in society.
- Foster emotional regulation and self-expression through multimodal communication, including digital literacy via iPads.
- Inspire pupils to become curious, confident communicators who are prepared for reintegration into mainstream education or further learning pathways.

This vision aligns closely with our school improvement priorities, particularly enhancing teaching through therapeutic and technological integration, improving student outcomes via personalised support, and strengthening inclusive leadership to ensure all pupils thrive.

Communication with Stakeholders

To ensure successful implementation and shared understanding of our English curriculum rationale, we propose the following communication strategies:

- **Staff Briefings and CPD:** Regular training sessions that explain the therapeutic and technological integration in English teaching, enabling staff to deliver the curriculum confidently and consistently.
- **Parental Engagement:** Workshops and accessible materials (including digital guides) to inform families about the curriculum's aims and how they can support literacy and emotional regulation at home.
- **Multi-agency Collaboration:** Clear communication with Midlands Psychology and other partners to align therapeutic goals with literacy development.
- **Student-Friendly Materials:** Use of iPads to create personalised learning plans and visual progress trackers that pupils can engage with, fostering ownership of their learning.
- **Governance Reporting:** Detailed curriculum rationale and progress updates shared with governors to demonstrate alignment with school vision and improvement priorities.



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These methods reflect our school's context and commitment to community connection, ensuring transparency and collaborative support for pupils' literacy development.

Addressing Inspection Feedback

Although the most recent Ofsted inspection provided no specific commentary or grades, this curriculum rationale proactively addresses key areas highlighted in our school improvement priorities and the new 2025 OFSTED framework:

- **Inclusion and SEND Strategy Alignment:** By designing a bespoke English curriculum tailored to complex SEND needs and therapeutic approaches, we demonstrate a clear commitment to inclusive education and meeting EHCP targets.
- **Quality of Education:** The curriculum's integration of technology and therapeutic practice supports high-quality, personalised teaching that promotes deep knowledge and skills development.
- **Personal Development and Wellbeing:** Embedding emotional regulation within English learning addresses pupils' holistic needs, supporting wellbeing alongside academic progress.
- **Leadership and Management:** The rationale supports leadership in maintaining a coherent, reflective curriculum that is responsive to pupil needs and local SEND priorities.
- **Parental and Community Engagement:** Communication plans ensure families and partners are integral to curriculum success, enhancing the educational experience and outcomes.
- This rationale thus embodies a forward-looking, evidence-informed approach that prepares Edgewood Academy for future inspections under the 2025 OFSTED framework, showcasing our strengths and continuous commitment to improvement.