

English

Subject overview :

“Language is not just words. It’s a culture, a tradition, a unification of community, a whole history that creates what a community is. It’s all embodied in a language” (Noam Chomsky)

At The Gillford Centre, we aim to inspire pupils and reignite their interest in reading and writing; encouraging them to understand that English is not just about letters and words and spelling but about exploration. We enable them to question, imagine and develop their awareness of our own and the literary world and its characters through personalised lessons and interventions; encouraging progress and a feeling of achievement by working to embed the key skills across KS1-4.

KS3:

In Key Stage 3, skills are taught using text. Each half term, students are able to explore a new text and study their themes and content and learn about the context of the story and its characters. While reading the story alongside the teacher, students are able to develop their reading and writing skills by applying their understanding of the story.

The aim of lessons in Key Stage 3 are to encourage a new interest in reading and making both reading and writing more accessible to students using a shared point of interest.

The content and context of the story is taught through a variety of media to stimulate students’ interests. Key skills and individualised interventions are also taught with the aim of developing confidence in their application within lessons.

KS4:

In Key Stage 4 we support students in obtaining their external qualifications in both GCSE and Functional Skills. Alongside all exam content are the opportunities for further personalised interventions to develop key skills in Literacy.

Students work towards achieving a GCSE in English Language using the exam board AQA. All lessons have an exam focus, with every lesson exploring GCSE content and application of understanding in order to encourage as much practice as possible. In addition to English Language, students will complete a non-examination unit, spoken language. Spoken language (previously speaking and listening) emphasises the importance of the wider benefits that speaking and listening skills have for students as they progress on to further education or employment.

Students also complete Functional Skills Entry Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3. The aim of this course is to encourage practical application of Literacy while providing the essential knowledge, skills and understanding that to enable students to operate confidently, effectively and independently in school, life and at work.

