

Holy Angels National School

Clogher,
Claremorris,
Co. Mayo.
F12RC95



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English Policy

Introduction and Rationale

Clogher National School is committed to providing a high-quality English education that fosters a love of language, develops strong communication skills, and equips our pupils to become confident and successful learners. Our English policy was formulated by the whole school staff to conform to the principles of the Irish Primary Language Curriculum and reflects our school's inclusive ethos and whole-school planning approach.

This policy aims to:

- Establish clear guidelines for the teaching and learning of English across all year groups.
- Promote a language-rich environment that supports the development of literacy skills.
- Ensure that all pupils have equal opportunities to access and benefit from English education.
- Foster a love of reading and writing through engaging and meaningful experiences.
- Promote the use of technology to enhance language learning.

Key Principles

- **Inclusivity:** We believe that all pupils, regardless of their background, ability, or learning style, have the right to a high-quality English education. We will provide appropriate support and accommodations to ensure that all pupils can access and participate fully in English learning.
- **Whole-School Planning:** English education is integrated into our whole-school planning process. We will work together as a team to ensure that our English curriculum is aligned with our school's overall goals and priorities.

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- **Language-Rich Environment:** We will create a language-rich environment that promotes the use of English in all aspects of school life. This will include providing opportunities for pupils to engage in meaningful conversations, read a variety of texts, and write for different purposes.
- **Phonological Awareness:** We will place a strong emphasis on developing pupils' phonological awareness skills, as these are essential for successful reading and spelling.
- **Literacy Across the Curriculum:** We will integrate literacy skills across all subjects to help pupils develop a deep understanding of the English language and its applications.
- **Assessment and Feedback:** We will use a variety of assessment methods to monitor pupils' progress and provide timely and constructive feedback.

Curriculum and Teaching

- **Alignment with the Irish Primary Language Curriculum:** Our English curriculum will be fully aligned with the Irish Primary Language Curriculum, ensuring that pupils are taught the necessary knowledge, skills, and attitudes to become proficient English language learners.
- **Balanced Approach:** We will strive to maintain a balanced approach to English teaching, focusing on both oral and written language skills.
- **Reading:** We will promote a love of reading by providing pupils with access to a wide range of high-quality texts. We will encourage pupils to read independently, as well as participate in guided reading and shared reading activities.
- **Writing:** We will provide pupils with opportunities to write for a variety of purposes, including creative writing, persuasive writing, and informative writing. We will emphasize the importance of clear communication and effective organization.
- **Grammar and Punctuation:** We will teach grammar and punctuation skills in a meaningful and engaging way, focusing on understanding and application rather than rote memorization.

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- **Speaking and Listening:** We will provide opportunities for pupils to develop their speaking and listening skills through a variety of activities, including group discussions, debates, and presentations.

Assessment and Evaluation

- **Ongoing Assessment:** We will use a variety of assessment methods, including observations, informal assessments, and formal tests, to monitor pupils' progress and provide timely feedback.
- **Differentiation:** We will differentiate our assessment practices to ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding and skills.
- **Feedback:** We will provide regular and constructive feedback to pupils, focusing on their strengths and areas for improvement.
- **Evaluation of Policy:** We will regularly review and evaluate our English policy to ensure that it remains relevant and effective.

Resources and Support

- **Library:** We will maintain a well-stocked library that provides a variety of reading materials for pupils of all ages and interests.
- **Professional Development:** We will provide ongoing professional development opportunities for our staff to support their teaching of English.
- **Parental Involvement:** We will encourage parental involvement in their child's English education and provide opportunities for parents to support their child's learning at home.

Digital Resources & Interactive Learning:

By effectively integrating ICT into the English curriculum, Clogher National School can create a more dynamic, engaging, and inclusive learning environment that supports the development of strong language skills in all pupils.

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- **eBooks and Digital Texts:** Providing access to a vast collection of digital books and texts can expand the range of reading materials available to pupils, catering to diverse interests and reading levels.
- **Online Dictionaries and Encyclopedias:** Digital reference tools can help pupils develop their vocabulary, research topics, and improve their understanding of the English language.
- **Educational Apps and Games:** Interactive apps and games can make learning English fun and engaging, reinforcing key concepts and skills.
- **Online Learning Platforms:** Platforms like Google Classroom or Seesaw can be used to deliver lessons, assign tasks, and facilitate communication between teachers and pupils.
- **Virtual Field Trips:** ICT can enable pupils to explore virtual environments and experience different cultures, expanding their understanding of the world and the English language.
- **Collaborative Tools:** Tools like Google Docs or Padlet can foster collaboration and teamwork, allowing pupils to work together on writing projects and share their ideas.

Accessibility and Inclusion:

Ensuring accessibility and inclusion for children with special educational needs (SEN) is paramount in creating a supportive and equitable learning environment. By providing appropriate accommodations and support, we can empower these children to reach their full potential and participate fully in all aspects of school life.

- **Assistive Technology:** ICT can provide assistive tools, such as speech-to-text software or screen readers, to support pupils with special educational needs and ensure equal access to English education.
- **Personalized Learning:** Technology can enable teachers to tailor instruction to individual pupils' needs, providing targeted support and enrichment activities.

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Professional Development:

The Board of Management at Clogher National School is committed to fostering a culture of continuous professional development among its staff. To achieve this, the Board actively supports and encourages teachers to participate in relevant training programs, workshops, and conferences. They allocate funds for professional development activities and provide flexible time off for staff to attend these events. Additionally, the Board encourages collaboration among staff members to share knowledge and best practices, fostering a supportive and learning-oriented environment. By prioritizing professional development, the Board aims to equip teachers with the necessary skills and knowledge to deliver high-quality education to all students.

- **Online Courses and Webinars:** ICT can provide access to online professional development resources, allowing teachers to stay up-to-date with the latest teaching methods and best practices in English education.
- **Collaborative Platforms:** Teachers can use online platforms to collaborate with colleagues, share resources, and learn from each other's experiences.

Conclusion

At Clogher National School, our English Policy reflects our commitment to providing a high-quality, inclusive, and engaging language education for all our students. By adhering to the principles of the Irish Primary Language Curriculum and implementing a whole school planning approach, we aim to equip our students with the skills they need to communicate effectively and confidently in their everyday lives. Together, we will create a supportive and enriching environment where every child can thrive in their language journey.

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Ratification and Review:

This English policy is a living document that will be reviewed and updated regularly to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of our pupils and the evolving landscape of English education.

This policy was ratified by the BoM on 17th October 2024 and will be reviewed again in May 2024.

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Chairperson BOM

Principal/ Secretary BOM