

English's Big Ideas (Key Concepts)

There are a number of key concepts which underpin the study of English. Pupils need to understand these concepts in order to deepen and broaden their knowledge, skills and understanding.

English has a pre-eminent place in education and in society. A high-quality education in English will teach pupils to speak and write fluently so that they can communicate their ideas and emotions to others and through their reading and listening, others can communicate with them. Through reading in particular, pupils have a chance to develop culturally, emotionally, intellectually, socially and spiritually. Literature, especially, plays a key role in such development. Reading also enables pupils both to acquire knowledge and to build on what they already know. All the skills of language are essential to participating fully as a member of society; pupils, therefore, who do not learn to speak, read and write fluently and confidently are effectively disenfranchised. The overarching aim for English is to promote high standards of language and literacy by equipping pupils with a strong command of the spoken and written word, and to develop their love of literature through widespread reading for enjoyment.

KC1	Read fluently	Read easily, fluently and with good understanding
KC2	Read for pleasure	Develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information
KC3	Develop and use a wide vocabulary	Acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
KC4	Appreciate a range of texts (including fiction, non-fiction and poetry)	Appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage
KC5	Write for a range of purposes and audiences	Write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences
KC6	Use discussion to explain and extend their ideas	Use discussion in order to learn; they should be able to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas
KC7	Use speaking and listening skills to communicate effectively	Are competent in the arts of speaking and listening, making formal presentations, demonstrating to others and participating in debate