



What does literacy across the curriculum look like?

Literacy encompasses speaking and listening, drama, role-play, reading and writing. By embedding the teaching of literacy through topics children can see a purpose and can apply their skills.

Some skills lessons will be taught to improve punctuation, grammar and spellings. Also a weekly handwriting lesson is taught using the 'Penpals' scheme.

The writing genres that are taught are taken from the National Strategies which give ideas on the way to teach and also the process to teach the genre. The order of the genres is decided by the class teacher so that they can be taught with cross-curricular links. Also it is important that, although the focus of teaching skills may be on one genre, children have the opportunity to apply this to other genres.

KS1 example: In a topic about 'Castles and Dragons' the focus is on information texts about castles and narrative work on dragons and dragon stories. However, the children also have the opportunity to write poems about dragons, letters to Saint George and instructions about how to make their own portcullis. Throughout the topic there are a variety of planned opportunities for the children to use role-play or drama activities to improve their spoken language. Also, during guided reading the children focus on books about castles and dragons to embed their knowledge and inspire their enthusiasm.

KS2 example: In a topic about the Tudors the main focus was on writing stories with an historical setting. However, the children also had the opportunity to write instructions for Tudor potions they had made, recounts of a day spent as a Tudor child, explanations about how Tudors dressed and diary extracts describing daily life. There were also plenty of drama opportunities, such as devising, performing and writing TV commercials for Tudor food dishes. Speaking and Listening skills were developed through activities such as holding a debate to determine if one of Henry VIII's wives deserved to be executed. In guided reading children read playscripts and short novels set in Tudor times. They also read abridged versions of Shakespearean plays.