The English Curriculum at Stone Hill School – Key Stage 4

The curriculum

All pupils in Key Stage 4 are working towards achieving a qualification in English. More detail can be found below. Pupil progress is monitored either by Sheffield STAT assessment grids (National Curriculum) or by the skills needed to pass AQA examinations.

ASDAN English Short Course

Some pupils in Key Stage 4 will work towards achieving this qualification before leaving Stone Hill School. They will build up the skills necessary to achieve this throughout year 9 and 10 and will complete it in year 11. This can underpin study of pre-release material and preparation for some elements of GSCE English Language examinations. The qualification contains 6 modules:

- Developing communication skills.
- Speaking and listening.
- Reading and writing styles.
- Reading for pleasure.
- Writing for a purpose.
- Reading for a purpose.

Pupils must present evidence of their activities in an organised portfolio.

Step up to English, Functional Skills, GCSE English Language (AQA)

Some pupils in Key Stage 4 will work towards achieving the Step up to English qualification. They will be entered for the Gold or Silver award. Those pupils who achieve Gold standard can go on to achieve Functional Skills and/or the full English Language GCSE. Pupils that are considered for this would attend additional English lessons each week.

Pupils will study the topics:

Travel (component 1)
Detectives (component 1)
Volunteering (component 1)
Sport (component 2)
Adventure (component 2)

We will submit 2 topics from component 1 and 1 topic from component 2 to the examining body (AQA). All assessments are submitted at the end of the course in year 11. Pupils are assessed in reading and comprehension, writing and spoken language. Each topic is assessed with a 1 hour 30 minute externally set non-exam assessment.

Whichever qualification your child achieves will provide a solid foundation for further study post 16.

Read, Write, Inc

Pupils who are identified as needing additional support with their reading will follow the Read, Write, Inc programme. This will happen at 910am-9.30am each morning. Pupils will work in small groups led by a trained Teaching Assistant. They will be assessed every half term for progress made. This programme will ensure their knowledge of letters and sounds are consolidated. The programme also promotes spelling, reading and handwriting practice.

Intervention

Your child's progress in English is monitored throughout the year. Where necessary we will provide intervention to ensure your child achieves their end of year target and beyond.

Spelling practice

Your child will be tested for their spelling age. They will be provided with weekly spellings in accordance with their result. If you would like any information on this please contact the school.

Reading rewards

Each time your child reads in school they will receive a sticker. They also receive a sticker each time they read at home. 10 stickers = bronze certificate, 20 stickers = silver certificate, 30 = gold certificate, 40 = platinum and a book of choice to take home. Each time your child receives a certificate they will also be given a small prize. The books that the children read are levelled in accordance with their reading age. In addition to this if your child is caught 'extreme reading' they will also be given an award and their photograph will be displayed in school. Please send in any pictures of your child reading at home or out and about! We will provide opportunities for this to happen in school during trips and choice time.

Drop it and Read

We would love all of our children to have read a variety of classic books when they leave Key Stage 4. With this in mind we have introduced this daily session. Each class is provided with a choice of books and they vote for which book they would like to read. The winning book is read to each class at the same time each day. When the book is finished they complete a review activity and watch the film in the school hall giving them a cinema experience.