

Literacy Policy

1.0 The Cumberland School Mission Statement

The Cumberland School (TCS) is an ambitious school, within a diverse and exciting community. Our motto, 'Determined, Ambitious Learners,' encompasses all of our school community: students, staff and governors. Our commitment to providing the best opportunities to learn and excel goes hand in hand with our commitment to equal opportunities and effective inclusion.

As a school we are determined to improve the life chances of every one of our students. Determination and resilience are essential qualities for our students if they are to achieve their potential. Our curriculum, both in the classroom and outside of it, ensures that students are given opportunities to challenge themselves and develop confidence, independence and resilience.

We want all of our students to have high standards. We encourage all students to understand their responsibilities to each other, the school and the wider community. Pride, respect and high aspirations are valued and developed so that The Cumberland School is a safe place to take risks and grow.

Above all, The Cumberland School is a learning community. We believe that all students and staff have the right to exceed expectations and we recognise that hard work, challenge and collaboration are vital to ensure exciting and effective teaching and learning in the classroom. We are an outward facing school, collaborating with other schools, colleges and businesses. We believe there is much we can and must learn from each other.

2.0 Implementation

At The Cumberland School we believe that improving standards of literacy is essential to the success of our students. It is the duty of all stakeholders to play an active role in the development of our students' reading, writing, speaking, listening skills. It is also the responsibility of all stakeholders to educate our students to be fully competent in the use of formal written and spoken English, and to instil an appreciation of a wide range of poetry, literature and the Arts and the ability to solve everyday mathematical problems.

The Cumberland School will provide a wide range of initiatives aimed at increasing our students' proficiency in oral and written literacy skills. These initiatives take place both in the classroom and as part of our pastoral mentoring programme.

2.1 In-Class Provision

It is the expectation in all classes that teaching staff will promote literacy by:

- Requiring students to speak in full sentences and to employ Standard English when answering questions.
- Introducing and displaying key terminology linked to the learning/key objective.
- Marking students' work for spelling, punctuation and grammar as well as content.
- Incorporating 'fix-it' time for students to reflect on, and improve the quality of their written work.

2.2 Pastoral Provision

As part of our mentoring, assembly and pastoral plan, our school will also promote literacy through:

- Recognising student work that has been nominated by staff in weekly assemblies. Students' 'Work of the Week' promotes good literacy skills demonstrated in lessons.
- Weekly Appreciation nominations in assemblies, where students articulate clearly why they would like to thank a named member of staff.
- Highlighting the importance of key literacy skills in PSHE lessons, which frequently include reading, writing tasks, as well as debates.
- The completion of the Master Mission Award, which is a bespoke programme that includes a variety of literacy based tasks to develop students interests in reading, writing and oracy.

2.3 Extracurricular Provision

Students at The Cumberland School are provided with opportunities to improve their reading, writing, spoken English and numeracy skills through our bespoke mentoring literacy and numeracy programme. This programme includes:

- Weekly guided reading sessions.
- Regular Accelerated Reader programme sessions for students in Year 7.
- Weekly Reading Matters sessions, which supports students in KS3 with low reading ages through mentorship by trained Year 9 students which develops comprehension skills.
- Weekly First Story sessions, which promote written literacy through targeted sessions led by a trained published author.
- Annual Spelling Bee competitions for each year group.
- A comprehensive Phonics programme to ensure Year 7 students who demonstrate low levels of literacy can make rapid progress in improving their literacy.

2.4 Other Provision

The Cumberland School places a high emphasis on the provision of extra-curricular literacy activities. These activities include:

- Providing a wide range of visiting authors, public speakers and poets who deliver inspirational talks to our students on the importance of reading and writing.
- Hosting creative writing and poetry workshops delivered by external youth organisations.
- Running in-house competitions to promote reading, spelling, creative writing, poetry composition and recitation.
- Ensuring that the school is represented in both regional and national creative writing, debating and public speaking competitions.
- Our annual trust-wide Spelling Bee competition, which brings together students from across Newham to recognise students' accomplishments in literacy.

3.0 Monitoring and Evaluation

We will track students' progress in literacy through various means.

- We will provide standardised reading age tests to all students at the beginning of each academic year in order to assess the cohort's progress in literacy.
- We will make use of departmental learning walks and book looks to assess how literacy is taught across the curriculum.
- We will record and share good practice observed in literacy across the school.

- We will conduct teacher and student interviews to assess how these initiatives impact students' literacy across the curriculum.

4.0 Links to Other Policies

This policy is linked to the Teaching and Learning Policy and the Behaviour Policy.

Reviewed By:	Stacey Goyan, Assistant Headteacher
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