



What is Literacy?

"Literacy unlocks the door to learning throughout life." Kofi Annan

- Literacy covers the three key aspects of: reading, writing; speaking and listening.
- Mastering these skills is important to ensure success across the curriculum, not just in English.

How is Literacy promoted at Wilsthorpe?

- Cross-curricular approach
- A fortnightly school 'Literacy Focus'
- Marking for literacy
- Fortnightly grammar and library lessons at KS3
- Extensive student library with texts suitable for all
- 'Drop Everything and Read'
- 'Readathon' sponsored reading programme
- BBC School Report
- Drama club
- School productions
- School newspaper

Parents: How Can You Help?

Reading

- Use tie-ins: Encourage your child to read a book which ties in with their interests and hobbies. Non-fiction texts such as magazines are good models for different styles of writing. Set aside time to read and ask your child what they have been reading. All pupils are issued with a termly Reading Record that parents are encouraged to sign. www.booksforkeeps.co.uk is an online children's book magazine that can provide plenty of inspiration.
- Listen to books: Almost every book is now available in audio format. This develops important listening skills and an understanding of the rhythm of language; vital skills when it comes to applying punctuation.

Writing

- Literacy mat: At Wilsthorpe your child uses the Literacy Mat in their different subjects to help them structure their writing. Encourage your child to continue to use the Literacy Mat at home when they are completing written homework. This can be found on VLE.
- Spellings: Generally most pupils at KS3 will be given fortnightly spellings to learn as homework. Encourage them to use the 'look, cover, write, check' method to help them to learn these.
- Make your fridge a word wall: Put up commonly-misspelled words on the fridge door using magnetic fridge letters! A variation on this is to put up words that are incorrect and ask them to spot the mistakes
- Read aloud to punctuate: Get your child to read out their completed work and they should hopefully hear where the punctuation should go. If not try reading it to them with the correct pauses for punctuation (rather than simply telling them where the punctuation goes).
- Proof read: Teachers at Wilsthorpe encourage pupils to check their written work before they see it as 'finished'. Encourage your child to check for full stops, capital letters and spelling mistakes as the very basics.
- Literacy Focus: Each fortnight we introduce a new Literacy Focus which is written into journals. You could discuss this with your child and ask them to explain it to help their understanding.

Speaking and Listening

- Practise talks: Ask your child to practice speeches in front of you. In English we focus on clarity and loudness; interesting and well-structured content; interaction with others; eye contact and body language when assessing.