

English Report for Governors – 2025/2026

Oracy

This year we have continued our work with Voice 21 to work towards building a culture of oracy throughout school. I have attended further training sessions and led staff meetings for teachers. We have embedded oracy across the curriculum and helped our children to focus on the specific oracy framework strands. Our Learning Buddies sessions have all had a strong oracy focus and our poetry recitals, concerts and performances really enhance this aspect of the curriculum. Our commitment to the teaching of oracy is also strengthened through our regular P4C sessions. This year, we transformed our end of year celebrations for parents to further elevate oracy within our school. Parents were invited to visit school and their children worked in groups to present and discuss aspects of their work from across the year. It was a great success.



Reading

Reading remains at the heart of our curriculum. Daily guided reading takes place throughout school so each session can be carefully planned to meet the needs of the small groups. Additional shared reading occurs within foundation subjects with a strong focus on prosody and subject specific vocabulary. Children are also assessed termly through standardised reading tests and teachers analyse these tests to then address misconceptions. Many other Wirral schools have visited our school to observe guided reading sessions. We are grateful to our lovely volunteers from Coram Beanstalk who continue to support some of our children with their reading journey.



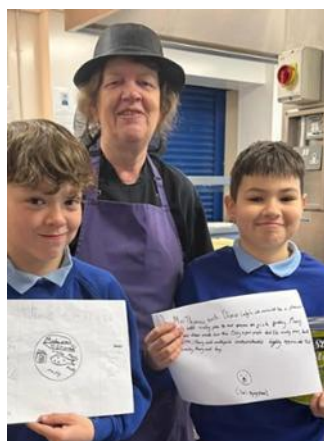
Phonics

We continue to teach phonics through the 'Little Wandle' scheme. We have a robust system of tracking the children – this colour coded system gives a clear overview for teachers, highlighting which graphemes children recognise and those which need further practice. All early guided reading books are phonetic and fully decodable. The children remain on fully decodable books until their phonics knowledge is secure. Children in KS2 use the Project X Code series and Big Cat Collins 7+ books to help secure their phonics through age-appropriate engaging texts.



Writing

Our writing overview ensures that children write for a range of purposes and audiences. Our children love to write for a purpose and particularly enjoy writing in the outdoor classroom. It is planned progressively in terms of grammar, punctuation, sentence types, content and structure. The 'Talk for Writing' process is used in many units for teaching writing across the whole school. Children are supported in smaller writing groups with additional support where required. Children are regularly given written feedback on their writing, so they know how to improve it. We have high expectations for presentation and children are taught to write using a cursive script. Daily spelling sessions include a focus on handwriting and a dictated sentence to support word understanding and sentence structure. Our Year Six pupils used their persuasive writing skills to bring mushy peas back on the menu every Friday!



Poetry

Our termly Poetry Recitals are still a popular event for children and teachers. Here, the children get to celebrate their love of poetry and perform for the rest of the school. Our older children provide feedback for each performance using the oracy framework strands. Voice 21 have been very impressed with our vision for poetry at Mersey Park and have asked us to provide quotes and videos to use at their North East Oracy Exhibition.



Interventions

Through thorough tracking and 'Pupil Progress' meetings, children who require additional support in English are quickly identified. They are then provided with additional phonics, reading or handwriting sessions. Detailed Provision Maps are also written for individual children with SMART targets. These children are often placed in a smaller teaching group to ensure they have the best level of support.

English across the school

The children enjoyed celebrating World Book Day with a 'Bedtime Stories' theme. Our legendary productions and concerts allow for each child to perform to an audience. This gives them a wonderful opportunity to develop their spoken language skills and build their self-confidence. Many year groups have visited Birkenhead library to take part in events by authors and story tellers. Year 4 visited the 'Floral Pavillion' to watch a performance of 'The Wind in the Willows'. We continue to use the Wirral School Library Service to ensure that children have additional books to enhance our topics and individual copies of books from our reading spine.



CPD

This year, teachers have been trained in Voice 21 strategies, including giving every pupil a voice and clear oracy teaching and feedback through the oracy framework strands. Our teachers have also attended training with Maddy Barnes to ensure they are up to date with current developments in English and that they have a thorough understanding of the National Curriculum. I have also attended a very detailed Early Years Writing courses with Ruth Swailes.

My role as an SLE

In my role as an SLE, I am supporting two local schools. The first school sent many staff to Mersey Park to observe so they could then establish guided reading and effective phonics interventions at their school. I have supported the second school by helping with the English learning environment and providing guidance to help raise standards in handwriting. I will continue to support schools throughout the next academic year.

End of Year Data July 2026 Reading			
	% below expectation	% At expectation	% Above expectation
Year 1	22%	62%	16%
Year 2	23%	51%	27%
Year 3	14%	59%	26%
Year 4	19%	55%	26%
Year 5	12%	64%	25%
Year 6	12%	88% (at or GD)	36%

End of Year Data July 2026 Writing			
	% below expectation	% At expectation	% Above expectation
Year 1	24%	67%	9%
Year 2	23%	65%	14%
Year 3	21%	53%	26%
Year 4	31%	57%	12%
Year 5	21%	69%	10%
Year 6	17%	83% (at or GD)	15%

Our Year 6 children once again achieved above Wirral and National in both their reading and writing SAT's.

Early Years – 62% GLD

Year 1 phonics test – 81% (Wirral 80%)

Year 2 phonics test retake – 93%

Report written by Hannah Passmore

July 2026