



Key Stage 3 Curriculum – English

Pupils in Key Stage 3 follow an exciting and varied English curriculum that builds upon their prior learning at primary school, and later begins to prepare them for the challenges of GCSE study. Our Key Stage 3 classes are taught in mixed-ability groupings to allow all children to participate in the full richness of the curriculum and engage in the subject alongside their peers. We are committed to carefully monitoring and assessing pupil progress throughout Key Stage 3. Our units end with an assessment marked using our Progress Map, which gives pupils a grade for the individual skills in our subject and we expect our pupils to reflect on and improve work based on the feedback they receive. Pupils in Year 8 and Year 9 also sit English exams, designed to help prepare them for the challenge of external exams at Key Stage 4.

English in Year 7

Our primary goal in Year 7 is to provide an engaging and enriching experience with our subject. Pupils study five units with us:

- Short Story Writing
- Poetry Through Time, culminating in our very popular annual ‘Poetry Slam’
- A study of a Shakespearean comedy
- Study of a contemporary novel (for example, *A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness or *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman)
- Your Planet Needs You! A tour of non-fiction pertaining to one of the most significant challenges facing our young people: climate change.

We are also blessed with a fantastic Learning Resources Centre; pupils in Year 7 have an allocated library lesson there once a fortnight.

Years 8 and 9

In Years 8 and 9, pupils study a wide array of different units of work. Like in Year 7, each unit focuses on building and extending specific skills to help them become critical readers and convincing writers.

We have high expectations of our pupils in Key Stage 3, and our curriculum is carefully designed to help prepare our pupils for the challenges of GCSE. Next year will see our Year 8s tackling *The Woman in Black* and Nineteenth Century Fiction and non-Fiction, and our Year 9s have been enjoying *Animal Farm* and the National Theatre’s adaptation of Andrea Levy’s *Small Island*.

As our curriculum develops across Key Stage 3, we spend time sharpening the skills needed for success in later years. This includes writing in timed conditions, and studying texts similar to those the pupils will be expected to respond to in Years 10 and 11.

Key Stage 3 English beyond the classroom:

English is a vibrant subject at Hardenhuish, and a great deal goes on beyond lesson time:

- During Year 7, all pupils take part in a performance poetry workshop, run by professional performance poets. The workshop culminates in an exciting evening 'slam,' in which selected pupils perform their verse and compete for the prestigious title of 'Hardenhuish Poetry Slam Champion'!
- The Hardenhuish Literature Festival sees visiting authors working with our Key Stage 3 pupils, offering Creative Writing workshops and glimpses into the life of a writer.
- Various Key Stage 3 pupils participate in national initiatives like the Carnegie Award Shadowing Group and Ovid in the West Country.
- Our fantastic Creative Writing club and Book Groups continue to grow in response to Year 7s' enthusiasm for Literature!
- Selected Key Stage 3, 4 and 5 pupils participate in local and national public speaking competitions.