



# English Approach

## Angel Oak Academy

### **Reading**

At Angel Oak Academy, we deliver whole class reading lessons. This means that every child in the cohort is exposed to the same high-quality text, and every child has the opportunity to read aloud in a lesson. Reading aloud provides pupils with the opportunity to practise their decoding skills, fluency (automaticity and expression) and prosody (rhythm, intonation and stress).

Our aim is for all children to leave Angel Oak Academy as fluent readers. When pupils come across an unfamiliar word, they are directed to use their decoding skills to read words independently. They are then asked to re-read the sentence in order to progress towards reading with automaticity. Once automaticity has been achieved, their teachers will guide them to read with expression. Teachers work with our fluent readers on their rhythm, intonation and stress, and a passage of text may be read multiple times in order to achieve this.

Whilst the primary reader is reading aloud, the rest of the class are acting as secondary readers and are expected to follow along by tracking with their finger. Teachers will pause the reading at planned points in order to check for understanding and ensure comprehension.

### **Writing**

Our Key Learning Indicators (KLIs) ensure that our pupils can confidently articulate and use different sentence structures, grammar and punctuation in writing lessons. Teachers approach a KLI by breaking it down to word level and then building it up to phrase or clause level, sentence level and finally paragraph level. At paragraph level, the pupil's writing is assessed against whether the KLI has been used correctly and effectively. Teachers teach a series of KLIs before a final writing outcome is produced. Pupils are expected to incorporate the taught KLIs into their final outcome and are assessed against this. Final outcomes are either fictional or expository pieces and have been carefully designed to allow pupils to effectively use the taught KLIs.

When children are writing, teachers provide feedback at the point of learning. Pupils are guided to reflect on their writing and identify where corrections and improvements can be made during the lesson. Once the pupil has engaged in a feedback conversation with their teacher, they re-draft their work. A pupil may re-draft their writing multiple times within a lesson or across a series of lessons.

We know that handwriting fluency leads to writing success; therefore, handwriting is taught as a discrete lesson at Angel Oak Academy. We teach the Debbie Hepplewhite font which is taught as print in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, and then moves into joined handwriting at the end of Year 2 onwards. Our teachers address handwriting in all lessons to encourage muscle memory. Interventions are run to support pre-writing skills such as finger strength and hand eye coordination when required.

### **Speaking and Listening**

There is a direct link between oracy and academic outcomes; therefore, developing our pupils' speaking and listening skills is an integral part of the school day at Angel Oak Academy. Pupils are expected to track the speaker, listen, ask and answer questions to extend their knowledge and understanding, and never interrupt. All teachers will correct and support pupils in using Standard English and developing well-structured sentences to communicate. Children are taught to respond appropriately to adults and their peers, selecting the appropriate register for effective communication. In all lessons, children are supported in maintaining their attention and active participation is encouraged at all times. Pupils have further opportunities to practice speaking audibly and fluently beyond the classroom through class assemblies and performances.