

Our Early Years Curriculum Intent

At St Peter's CofE Primary, our curriculum is intentionally designed to place communication and language at the heart of everything we do. This focus reflects a key priority for our children.

- On entry to the Ark (2-year-olds), only 33% of children are developmentally typical in the Speaking and Listening and Attention strands of learning (Ark Baseline Data 2024/25).
- A similar trend continues on entry to Nursery, where 41% of children are developmentally typical in Speaking and 38% in Listening and Attention (Nursery Baseline Data 2024/25).
- Communication and language underpin all areas of learning and are essential to the development of early literacy skills. Our curriculum has seen improvements in CL; however writing remains a barrier to children achieving the Good Level of Development (GLD) at the end of Reception. In 2025, 54% of children achieved GLD, with only 56% achieving the Writing ELG, despite the following positive outcomes; 74% Speaking, 67% Listening and Attention, 85% Comprehension, 82% Word Reading. We have worked on refining and strengthening our offer further by introducing Wellcomm and have begun implementation of Wise Writing Continuum. Utilising external expertise has added greater rigour and depth to our offer and will ensure that the improvements in communication and language skills have an impact on writing skills and therefore improve the GLD for our children.
- Anecdotally, we are finding that many children in Nursery struggle with key speaking and listening skills, such as following instructions with 3 key words, using his and her correctly, using language to control emotions, and waiting for a turn to talk in a group. As a result, we target these key skills through carefully planned circle times, interventions such as BLAST and Early Talk Boost, as well as through the SHREC approach whilst working alongside the children in their play.
- We are also closely monitoring a gap between our children that do and do not attend the Ark, as well as the children receiving 30 hours childcare funding and those that receive 15 hours. This is something that we will continue to monitor and adjust our practice accordingly.

In response to these needs, we have designed our curriculum to build strong foundations in communication and language across all learning experiences. It is woven throughout every aspect of the curriculum and is brought to life through rich exposure to stories, texts, songs and rhymes linked to their own lived experiences.