



English Curriculum

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English at Blanche Nevile

**"THE MORE THAT YOU READ, THE MORE THINGS YOU WILL KNOW.
THE MORE THAT YOU LEARN, THE MORE PLACES YOU'LL GO."**

At Blanche Nevile, we are passionate about cultivating a lifelong love of literature within a rich and supportive environment tailored to the needs of deaf students.

Our curriculum serves as a gateway to wider reading and deeper thinking, encouraging students to explore ideas critically, creatively, and with confidence. With deaf students at the heart of our approach, we ensure that all content is fully accessible through visual resources, pre-teaching of vocabulary, the use of BSL, and a strong emphasis on developing reading comprehension and language fluency.

We also bring literature to life through drama, role-play, and film, offering students immersive opportunities to connect with texts on a deeper emotional and experiential level.

We offer a broad, balanced, and inclusive curriculum that reflects both the diversity of our students and the wider world. Alongside British classics, we proudly incorporate World Literature and texts by authors and featuring characters from a wide range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds, ensuring that students see themselves represented in what they read.

Our English curriculum follows the National Curriculum programme of study and is carefully adapted to meet the communication and learning needs of our deaf learners. Through literature, students explore current affairs, historical contexts, and issues of religion, gender, and identity, all delivered in a way that strengthens their language and critical thinking skills.

By offering a thoughtfully structured and ambitious curriculum, we aim to equip our students with the knowledge, empathy, and confidence they need to thrive both in school and in the wider world.

At Key Stage 3

At Key Stage 3, students are organised into groups based on their abilities and individual progress in literacy. These groups follow the Key Stage 3 English Programme of Study, with some classes using a tailored curriculum designed to meet their specific learning needs. This approach ensures continuous development of skills in speaking and listening, reading, and writing.

The curriculum covers a broad selection of fiction and non-fiction texts. Students engage with whole novels, short stories, poetry, and plays, spanning a variety of genres. This includes poetry, both modern and classic works, as well as two Shakespeare plays.

Throughout their studies, students build confidence in communicating and writing for different purposes and audiences. They also begin to explore English creatively by making connections between texts and ideas and experimenting with language in imaginative ways.

English lessons reinforce and expand students' understanding of grammar, vocabulary, and how meaning is created in both written and spoken language. Independent reading for pleasure and personal interest is actively encouraged to nurture a lifelong love of books.

At Key Stage 4

At Blanche Nevile, our KS4 English curriculum stands out for its flexibility and ambition. We believe every student deserves the chance to excel, so our pathways are carefully tailored to each learner's strengths, interests, and aspirations. Unlike many schools, we offer the opportunity to work towards more than one qualification, such as Functional Skills and/or GCSE English, giving students multiple routes to success and ensuring they leave with nationally recognised achievements.

This personalised approach not only builds confidence but also empowers our learners with the communication skills they need to thrive in further study, the workplace, and beyond. What makes our provision truly unique is the way we balance high expectations with genuine individuality, supporting every student to discover their voice and reach their full potential.

KS4 Pathways

ENGLISH

01

GCSE English Language

Our GCSE English Language course develops students' reading, writing, and communication skills, preparing them for both academic success and real-world situations. Through a combination of engaging texts, practical tasks, and exam-focused strategies, students learn to express themselves clearly, analyse language effectively, and build confidence in their written and spoken communication.

02

GCSE English Literature

Our GCSE English Literature course inspires students to explore a wide range of classic and modern texts, developing critical thinking, analytical skills, and a deeper appreciation of storytelling. Through study of novels, poetry, and drama, students learn to interpret meaning, understand context, and express insightful ideas with confidence.

03

Functional Skills English

Functional Skills English equips students with essential reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills for everyday life and work. The course focuses on practical communication, helping learners gain confidence and independence while achieving a nationally recognised qualification.

03

AQA Unit Award Scheme

The Unit Awards Scheme recognises students' achievements through short, focused units across a range of subjects and skills. It celebrates progress, builds confidence, and provides meaningful, measurable qualifications that reflect each learner's individual strengths.

