



Our English Curriculum

English at The Cedar School

Our English curriculum develops a lifelong love of communication, reading and writing for our children. Children experience high-quality literature throughout all key stages. At Cedar, our children learn through explicit lessons for reading, writing and speaking and listening.

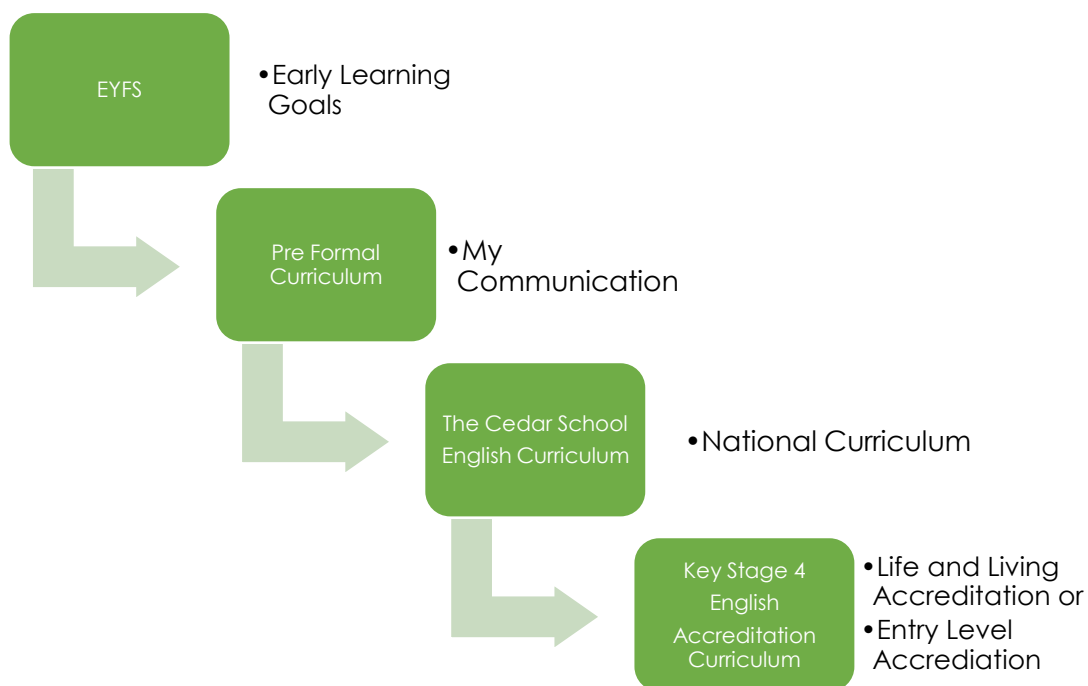
Communication: Our English curriculum supports the development of our children's communication skills through explicit language lessons, enriching language through literature and supporting language structure through grammar. They will learn to communicate their preferences, ideas and viewpoints and communicate these effectively.

Empowerment: Through the teaching of English, our children are empowered by being taught to communicate effectively through the spoken and written word as well as to hear the voices of others.

Discovery: Children's discovery skills will be enriched through a wide range of high-quality literature, both fiction and non-fiction. Children will learn the skills of reading, writing and communication which will support their independence skills in the future.

Aspiration: Children will develop their skills relevant to their age and stage of development. They will be encouraged to understand the power of reading and writing, as well as the benefits these skills will have on their lives after Cedar. Children will use their skills to gain accreditation by the end of their Key Stage 4 journey.

Resilience: Children will develop resilience through the constant practice and application of English skills. They will learn to apply these skills in as many contexts as possible to ensure they are able to continue to use them in their future.





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Early Years Foundation Stage:

In EYFS, instead of separate curriculum areas, learning opportunities including early English skills can be found in seven areas of learning:

Communication and language - opportunities to talk / sign, use new vocabulary

Personal, social and emotional development- engage with others

Physical development- develop fine and gross motor skills

Literacy – learn to make marks and start to form letters, explore sounds and favourite stories

Mathematics- using mathematical vocabulary e.g. big and small

Understanding the world- communicate about people, places and the world around them

Expressive arts and design- joining in with songs and exploring mark-making.

Pre Formal Curriculum:

Our pre formal curriculum focusses on the early communication, social and emotional and cognitive skills that are the foundation of learning. It is a curriculum that recognises the importance of movement and play in a child's development and the need for sensory and multi-sensory approaches to learning. Early English concepts are taught within My Communication

The Cedar School English Curriculum:

Our English curriculum sees the children progress through stages at a pace that suits their needs. These stages are based around the programme of study from the National Curriculum which aims to ensure that all children:

- read easily, fluently and with good understanding
- develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information
- acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage
- write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences
- use discussion in order to learn; they should be able to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas
- are competent in the arts of speaking and listening, making formal presentations, demonstrating to others and participating in debate.

Pupils are taught to read through discrete phonics teaching or a whole-word approach where appropriate.



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Key Stage 4

OCR Life and Living Accreditation:

The OCR Accreditation for Life and Living scheme is a framework designed for young people with severe or profound and multiple learning difficulties. The scheme includes a range of personal, social and practical skill areas that the children access throughout their time in Key Stage 4 whilst continuing the Cedar English Curriculum. The scheme can be accessed at 3 levels and includes the units outlined below.

Level	Skill Area: Communication Unit:
Entry 1	Making requests and asking questions in familiar situations
	Providing personal information
	Engaging in early reading activities
	Interacting in a group situation
	Engaging with the world around you: people
	Encountering experiences: being a part of things
	Developing communication skills
	Developing reading skills
	Developing writing skills
Entry 2	Presenting written information in different styles and formats
	Understanding short texts and simple instructions
	Asking questions and making requests in everyday situations
	Providing personal information in writing
	Managing social relationships
Entry 3	Contributing to discussions
	Writing in short paragraphs
	Using different reading methods
	Making requests and asking questions in a variety of situations
	Completing forms with personal information

Entry Level Accreditation:

Entry Level Certificate in English has been designed specifically to align with GCSE English Language and provide a progression route for lower attainers. The certificate provides a springboard to GCSE, and supports advancement in English by cementing children's core understanding. The qualification can be accessed at 3 levels and includes the content outlined below.

Level 1, 2 and 3	Skill Area: English Assessment
Speaking and Listening	Using appropriate language to communicate effectively
	Listening and responding to questions and feedback
	Using presentation skills to communicate
	Comparing ideas
Writing	Writing for different forms, purposes and audiences
	Writing to communicate meaning
	Organising information and ideas
Reading	Reading short extracts from both fiction and non-fiction 20th- and 21st-century texts
	Identifying and interpreting information and ideas
	Selecting evidence from texts to show understanding
	Explaining the use of language and structure
	Showing understanding of an extract