



## Cultural Capital in English

Cultural capital is the accumulation of knowledge, behaviours, and skills that a pupil can draw upon and which demonstrates their cultural awareness, knowledge and competence; it is one of the key ingredients a pupil will draw upon to be successful in society, their career and the world of work. Cultural capital promotes social mobility and success in our stratified society. Cultural capital gives a pupil power. It helps them achieve goals, become successful, and rise up the social ladder without necessarily having wealth or financial capital. Cultural capital is having assets that give pupils the desire to aspire and achieve social mobility whatever their starting point.

### How do we promote cultural capital at St Mary's in English?

At St. Mary's, we ensure that every child has the chance to access a wealth of experiences through a variety of ways. We endeavour that all pupils from Nursery to Year 6 are exposed to high quality texts and world-class authors. We provide ample opportunities for pupils to visit the surrounding community and beyond to learn beyond the classroom. We believe that learning from first-hand experience is very powerful and provides lasting impact.

As well as venturing out of school, we invite visitors into our school to work with our children, for example novelists, actors and actresses, local MPs, famous athletes, campaign representatives and representatives from local services. These experts and representatives inspire our children through sharing their passion for their subject area. This not only raises our children's aspirations for the future, but also provides a purposeful hook to engage pupil's in writing and encourages the development of oracy.

In addition to this, we organise special events and curriculum days to enrich our pupils' lives and to provide an effective stimulus for development, for example: World Book Day, National Poetry Day and National Shakespeare Day.

Here are some examples of the opportunities that we provide in English to promote cultural capital:

- Learning and performing poetry.
- Performing in class assemblies.
- Taking part in debates.
- Visiting our local library.
- Daily story time, which exposes pupils to a range of authors and stories from other cultures.
- Varied reading spine in all year groups to enrich pupils' knowledge and understanding about famous authors and literature.
- Participating in campaigns, such as: human rights and anti-plastic and air pollution.
- Friday Favourites – pupils are able to share their favourite book with the rest of their class.
- Interviewing and hot-seating opportunities.
- Elections in school to imitate general elections.
- Lunchtime library club.
- St. Mary's Newspaper – journalist club.
- Author visits.
- Now press play lessons to bring the curriculum to life!
- Engagement in community/social justice issues.
- Use of Newsround to raise awareness of political and current affairs.
- Trips to provide experiences e.g. Apedale (Y5), seaside (Y2) and residential (Y6).
- Competing in Young Writer competitions to showcase talents.
- Visits to the local care home.
- Participation in the school council.

**Visit the 'Class Pages' section of the website to find out more of what each year group has been up to.**