



Sapphire representing
deep thinking and
exploration

Literacy in the Sapphire Pathway



Overview

Literacy in the Sapphire pathway reflects a 'Doing, Responding & Interpreting' curriculum, where children move into a more structured, subject-specific approach to learning.

Children are developing the ability to:

- Apply, generalise and interpret their learning
- Work with increasing independence and confidence
- Engage in more formal and sustained learning opportunities
- Read, write, speak and listen with increasing independence

Literacy is driven by:

- Individual EHCP targets (central to all learning)
- A structured literacy curriculum aligned to the adapted National Curriculum
- Development of reading, writing, speaking and listening skills
- Preparation for real-life communication, independence and life skills.

Intent: What Literacy Should Look Like

Literacy in Sapphire is:

- Structured, progressive and subject-specific
- A balance of teacher-led instruction and independent application
- Focused on developing confident communicators, readers and writers
- Designed to enable children to apply literacy skills across the curriculum and in real life

Children develop literacy through:

- Exposure to high-quality texts across a range of genres
- Development of speaking and listening as a foundation for all literacy learning
- Explicit teaching of vocabulary and sentence structure using Colourful Semantics
- Increasing ability to record, explain and interpret their ideas

Implementation: How Literacy is Delivered

1. Structured Literacy Lessons

- Four focused literacy lessons per week
- Planned by the class teacher and delivered by the class teacher and teaching assistants
- Based on progressive development of reading, writing and communication skills

Lessons are:

- Clearly structured and sequential
- Built around a consistent lesson structure (e.g. input, guided practice, independent task)
- Supported by visuals, modelling and scaffolding

Children are increasingly able to:

- Sit and focus for longer periods
- Engage in whole-class and small group teaching
- Follow structured routines and expectations

2. Text-Based Curriculum

- Texts are central to all literacy learning
- High-quality books are used to inspire and drive learning
- Texts may link to topics, but not always

Across key stages:

- Children explore a range of books
- Exposure to fiction, non-fiction and different genres

This supports:

- Engagement and enjoyment of reading
- Development of comprehension and vocabulary
- Understanding of language and structure

3. Communication Focus

Speaking and listening are key priorities:

- Planned opportunities for discussion, questioning and interaction
- Children are supported to:
 - Share ideas
 - Respond to questions
 - Explain their thinking

Approaches include:

- Colourful Semantics to develop sentence structure
- Modelling and repetition of language
- Use of visuals, AAC and structured supports

4. Reading

Children develop reading through:

- Regular opportunities to read with an adult
- Exposure to a wide range of texts

Development of:

- Decoding and fluency
- Comprehension and understanding

Reading is:

- Explicitly taught and practised 4 times a week using Twinkl Phonics
- Embedded across the curriculum

5. Writing

Children are supported to develop writing through:

- Structured and progressive teaching of writing skills
- Modelled and scaffolded tasks
- Opportunities for independent writing

Children begin to:

- Record learning in written, pictorial or supported formats
- Use appropriate grammar, punctuation and vocabulary
- Apply writing skills in different contexts

6. Teaching Approaches

Literacy is taught using the same principles as Maths:

- Explicit, structured teaching
- Engaging and practical learning opportunities
- Scaffolding and differentiation
- Opportunities for guided and independent practice

Learning remains:

- Engaging
- Practical
- Meaningful

7. Adult Role in Literacy

Adults support learning by:

- Delivering high-quality, structured teaching
- Modelling reading, writing and speaking and listening
- Using questioning to develop understanding and challenge thinking
- Providing scaffolding and support
- Gradually reducing support to promote independence

Adults balance:

- Direct teaching
- Guided practice
- Independent application

Environment: Supporting Literacy Learning

The classroom environment is:

- Structured, predictable and organised
- Designed to support focus, communication and independence

Key features include:

- Whole-class teaching areas
- Small group learning spaces and individual workstations
- Access to books and reading materials
- Visual supports and labelled resources

The environment supports:

- Reading for enjoyment
- Independent access to resources
- Opportunities for communication

Preparation for Life

Literacy plays a key role in preparing children for life.

- Functional communication skills
- Reading for purpose (e.g. signs, instructions)
- Writing for real-life situations
- Confidence in expressing ideas and needs

Impact: How Learning is Evidenced

Progress in literacy is seen through:

- Improved ability to communicate, read and write
- Increased independence in learning
- Ability to apply and interpret skills across contexts
- Development of confidence and engagement

Learning is evidenced through:

- Recorded work (written, pictorial or practical)
- Photographs and observations on Tapestry
- 1st of the Month Books

Key Principles

- EHCP targets remain central to all learning
- Literacy is explicitly taught and embedded across the curriculum
- Repetition and consolidation secure understanding
- Learning is engaging, practical and purposeful
- Strong focus on communication, independence and life skills

What You Should See in a Sapphire Classroom

- Structured, purposeful literacy lessons
- Children engaged in reading, writing and discussion
- Use of high-quality texts to drive learning
- Application of Colourful Semantics and communication strategies

- Regular speaking and listening opportunities
- A balance of teacher-led, guided and independent learning
- Children recording and applying their learning
- Growing independence, confidence and communication skills

Literacy in the Sapphire pathway enables children to become confident communicators, readers and writers, equipped with the skills needed for the next stage of education and for life.