



Willingdon

COMMUNITY SCHOOL

“Exploring the power of language”

Summer 2025 Results

22% of students achieved Grade 7-9 in English.

62% of students achieved Grade 5-9 in English.

77% of students achieved Grade 4-9 in English.

‘My English lessons are so enjoyable because they are action-packed and everyone is included in the frequent class discussions where we bounce ideas across the classroom. All of our English teachers are so supportive and I find it rewarding seeing my hard work pay off as my grades improve. The praise I receive from my teacher makes me more driven and means I look forward to my English lessons every day.’

‘All the teachers in the English department have a passion for their subject and I am so lucky to be taught by them.’

CURRICULUM BOOKLET

SEPTEMBER 2025

English

Our School

Curriculum Vision

The curriculum at Willingdon Community School offers a broad, personalised and challenging educational journey. It builds on students' experiences from the primary phase of their education.

It provides all students with the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes needed in order to become successful learners who enjoy learning, make progress and achieve their full potential.

Subject Vision

English lessons at Willingdon encourage students to think, read and write at a high level. We are ambitious for our students, and we develop their curiosity for learning by encouraging them to think about and discuss complex ideas.

We use high-quality texts to help students develop a mastery of language. Our broad and ambitious curriculum includes texts from different times and cultures. We celebrate diversity and promote empathy, curiosity and understanding about a range of places, lives and perspectives. We study the best writers and thinkers in order to help our students understand that excellent writing has the power to change the world.

Key Concepts in English

In English, we want your child to read, understand and learn to love a wide range of stories and texts. This will help your child to succeed in their future study and in the world of work. It will allow them to understand our world and to explore the feelings, attitudes and ideas of different people. We will help your child to develop their skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening and we will support your child to become confident in presenting to others and sharing their ideas. Our aim is for each child we teach to become a master of the English language.

In Years 7, 8 and 9, we study a range of high-quality literature, both fiction and non-fiction, in order to promote a love of reading. We choose texts from different times and cultures to create a culturally inclusive curriculum.

In Years 10 and 11, the GCSE course follows on directly from the work of the first three years at Willingdon. It develops opportunities for analytical and creative writing and independent reading that expands students' vocabulary, knowledge and skills.

We use a range of strategies to challenge your child and to ensure that learning is enjoyable and engaging for all. This includes:

- Silent 'Do Now' tasks to engage all learners at the start of the lesson.
- Whiteboards to check knowledge and share ideas.
- I do, we do, you do – shared writing.
- Memory mode quizzes.
- Think, pair, share.
- Quick knowledge checks.
- Quote learning.
- Choral reading and group / whole class reading strategies.
- Small group and whole-class discussion.

Programme of Study Key Stage 3

Year 7

‘Introduction to Literature - new worlds, places and times’

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
7.1 – Creative Writing	7.2 - Novel	7.3 – Survival Writing	7.4 – Poetry	7.5 – Play	7.6 – Shakespeare
Creating Curiosity	Now Or Never	Non-Fiction	Romantic Poetry	The Playground	A Midsummer Night’s Dream

Year 8

‘Beyond Literature – new forms, genres and perspectives’

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
8.1 – Novel	8.2 – Creative Writing	8.3 – Creative Writing	8.4 – Poetry	8.5 – Drama Text	8.6 – Creative Writing
Boy, Everywhere	Animal Farm	Dystopian Writing	Protest Poetry	Face: The Play	Non-fiction Crime Writing

Year 9

‘Exploring Literature – examining the big ideas of isolation, power and tragedy’

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
9.1 – Novel	9.2 – Creative Writing	9.3 - Poetry	9.4 – Shakespeare	9.5 – Spoken Language	9.6 – 19 th Century Writing
Of Mice and Men	The Gothic	Conflict Poetry	Macbeth	Speaking & Listening	19th Century Writing

Assessment in KS3

Each term, your child will have a formal assessment. First, they will complete a practice assessment. Teachers will give students feedback on what they have done well and will set targets to help them improve. Then your child will then have a series of lessons that explain how to make progress on their target. Lastly, students will be given a final assessment that provides the opportunity to show progress towards their targets. This will be given a grade and a new target to help students continue to improve.

Unit	1	2	3	4	5	6
Year 7	Descriptive Writing	Letter Writing	Article Writing	Creative Writing	Spoken Presentation	Descriptive Writing
Year 8	Analytical Reading: Essay	Creative Writing	Descriptive Writing	Analytical Reading: Essay	Monologue	Persuasive Writing
Year 9	Analytical Reading: Essay	Descriptive Writing	Comparative Reading: Essay	Analytical Reading: Essay	Spoken Presentation	Analytical Reading: Unseen Poetry

Programme of Study Key Stage 4

In Years 10 and 11, your child will prepare for two GCSE exams: English Language and English Literature.

We use AQA as our exam board. You can find information to help you understand the GCSE course and support your child with their study on the AQA website:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse>

Term 1 Year 10	Term 2 Year 10	Term 3 Year 10	Term 4 Year 10	Term 5 Year 10	Term 6 Year 10
Literature Paper 1: Romeo and Juliet	Literature Paper 1: A Christmas Carol	Language Paper 1: Creative Reading and Writing	Literature Paper 2: An Inspector Calls	Language and Literature: MOCK EXAM preparation and feedback English Language: Spoken Language	Literature Paper 2: Anthology Poetry 9 poems from Love and Relationships Anthology
Term 1 Year 11	Term 2 Year 11	Term 3 Year 11	Term 4 Year 11	Term 5 Year 11	Term 6 Year 11
11.1 Literature Paper 2: Anthology Poetry 6 family themed poems from Love and Relationships Poems Literature Paper 2: Unseen Poetry	11.2 Language Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives Language and Literature: MOCK EXAM	Structured revision units based on student need.	Structured revision units based on student need.	Structured revision units based on student need. GCSE Exams	GCSE Exams

Assessment in Key Stage 4

Each term in Years 10 and 11, unless there are mock exams, your child will complete a practice assessment and a final assessment on the term's topic. This will be an exam-style question and will be taken from a past exam paper. Teachers will give your child feedback on what they have done well in the practice assessment and will set your child targets. Your child will then have a series of lessons helping them to meet their targets and improve their work. The final assessment will give your child the opportunity to show that they have met these targets. After the final assessment, your child will be given an exam paper mark and a target to help them continue to improve.

In the summer of Year 10 and autumn and spring of Year 11, your child will complete mock exams for English Language and Literature. Your child will be given targets for these papers as well as a mark and a grade for each. We will spend time in class working through targets and helping your child to improve their performance.

Key Stage 4 Assessment Overview					
Term 1 Year 10	Term 2 Year 10	Term 3 Year 10	Term 4 Year 10	Term 5 Year 10	Term 6 Year 10
Romeo and Juliet	A Christmas Carol	Language Paper 1: Reading and Writing Section	An Inspector Calls	MOCK EXAM Language Paper 1 and Literature Paper 1 Spoken Language Presentation	Poetry Comparison Unseen Poetry
Term 1 Year 11	Term 2 Year 11	Term 3 Year 11	Term 4 Year 11	Term 5 Year 11	Term 6 Year 11
Poetry Comparison	MOCK EXAM Language Papers 1 and 2 Literature Papers 1 and 2	Fortnightly assessment: topics confirmed after mock exam	Fortnightly assessment: topics confirmed after mock exam	GCSE Exams	GCSE Exams

English Learning Journey



British Values

Our English curriculum is accessible and relevant for the students that we teach. We offer a wide range of authors and texts from different nationalities, cultures and time periods. This is so that students can develop their worldly understanding and compassion.

Our range of texts allow us to explore the value of democracy and the dangers of democracy breaking down.

We consider issues of law and the causes and consequences of criminal activity in Britain.

We explore the importance of individual liberty and consider the issues faced by those, across the world and throughout history, who do not enjoy it.

We actively promote and celebrate diversity. Students are encouraged to show respect and tolerance.

Key Stage 3 coverage

Value	Year 7 coverage	Year 8 coverage	Year 9 coverage
• democracy.	7.5: <i>The Playground</i>	8.2: <i>Animal Farm</i> 8.6: Non-Fiction Crime Writing	9.1: <i>Of Mice and Men</i> . 9.4: <i>Macbeth</i>
• the rule of law.	7.6: <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	8.1: <i>Boy, Everywhere</i> 8.2 <i>Animal Farm</i> 8.6: Non-Fiction Crime Writing	9.1: <i>Of Mice and Men</i> .
• individual liberty.	7.2: 'Now or Never' 7.5: <i>The Playground</i> 7.6: <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	8.1: <i>Boy, Everywhere</i> 8.2: <i>Animal Farm</i> 8.3: Dystopian fiction writing. 8.6: Non-Fiction Crime Writing	9.1: <i>Of Mice and Men</i> . 9.3: <i>Conflict Poetry</i> 9.4: <i>Macbeth</i>
• mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, and for those without faith.	7.2: 'Now or Never' 7.5: <i>The Playground</i>	8.1: <i>Boy, Everywhere</i> 8.4: Protest Poetry 8.5 <i>Face: The Play</i>	9.1: <i>Of Mice and Men</i> . 9.3: <i>Conflict Poetry</i> 9.4: <i>Macbeth</i>

Key Stage 4 coverage

Value	Year 10 coverage	Year 11 coverage
• democracy.	10.4: <i>An Inspector Calls</i>	
• the rule of law.	10.1: <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	
• individual liberty.	10.1: <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	11.2: Language Paper 2 (writing section)
• mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, and for those without faith.	10.5: Love and Relationships poetry (part 1) 10.2: <i>A Christmas Carol</i>	11.1: Love and Relationships poetry (part 2)

Literacy

All English study will help your child to develop their literacy skills. We will help your child to develop and broaden their critical vocabulary and become an eloquent speaker and sophisticated writer.

We will help your child learn how to read between the lines and understand the purpose and meaning in a piece of writing. This will help your child in their future study and in the world of work.

SMSC in English

Spiritual Development

In English, students develop a sense of their place in the world through the study of stories and real-life writing. Students read critically and discuss what they have read, developing curiosity about the world around them and the experiences of others.

Students expand their individual creativity through talk and writing. They deepen their self-confidence and love of learning by reflecting on their strengths, the process of learning and their what their next steps should be.

Moral Development

Students are introduced to a range of texts that explore ideas of moral conflict, concern for others and the consequences of both ethically sound and unsound choices. At Key Stage Three, the texts we study that explore these issues include: *Now or Never*, *The Playground*, *Boy Everywhere*, *Animal Farm*, *Face: The Play*, *Of Mice and Men* and *Macbeth*. Alongside these, the curriculum features themed poetry anthologies and prose writing that consider issues of protest, crime, inequality, conflict and isolation. Our Key Stage Four course includes in-depth consideration of moral issues in *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Christmas Carol*, the *Love and Relationships* poetry anthology and *An Inspector Calls*, as well as a broader study of moral issues in fiction and non-fiction extracts from the 19th to the 21st centuries.

Social Development

As a school, we place a strong emphasis on developing students' oracy, preparing them to succeed in future. In English, we explicitly teach the skills required to discuss and debate respectfully and with curiosity and to consider and challenge differences of opinion. There are frequent opportunities to develop these skills in lessons. The study of literary texts at both key stages promotes the idea of the common humanity of all people, of the need for mutual respect and tolerance and of the necessity to challenge inequality and celebrate diversity.

Cultural Development

We develop an appreciation of the wide range of literature written in English, including the literary canon and the work of authors from a broad range of cultural backgrounds. Through our study of classic literary texts, we consider the universality of human experience and the timelessness of great literature. Our consideration of texts in performance, both on-screen and through live performance, develops students' appreciation of the rich cultural heritage that is part of 21st-century British life.

Careers

All career paths require a strong level of understanding and use of English. Through mastering the English language, your child will broaden their career options for the future.

Children who particularly love the study of English may want to consider careers in the following areas: writing, journalism, marketing, public relations, business, teaching and education, law, customer support, human resources, media and online content.

Your child will prepare for life outside of school through purposeful debate, forming and presenting their opinions in an articulate and critical manner. We create opportunities for students to see careers related to English through visits to the theatre, in-school English events and creative workshops. Furthermore, your child will have the opportunity to have English lessons in the library as well as being involved in writing workshops, author visits and volunteering as a student librarian.

Parents can help by:

Supporting their child with homework at Key Stage 3.

1. Ask your child about the Reading Empathy Challenge #inmyshoesWCS
2. Sit with them as they complete the short termly feedback on their reading.
3. Look at your child's Sparx Reader update emails and use the parent portal.

Supporting their child with homework at Key Stage 4.

- Use the homework knowledge organisers to test and help your child learn quotes and knowledge of characters, themes and ideas in our Literature texts.
- Encourage your child to read widely and regularly by reading with or alongside them.
- Share high-quality articles and discussing the issues they raise, using websites such as BBC News.
- Visit libraries, bookshops and charity shops to browse a range of different books.
- Support oracy by sitting down weekly, perhaps over a meal, and talking about the learning in English lessons and about events in the wider world.