Pool Hayes Literacy Statement

At Pool Hayes Academy, we take great pride in our unwavering commitment to fostering literacy across all subjects and age groups. Our dedicated and skilled staff continuously work to create a learning environment where every student is empowered to develop strong reading, writing, and communication skills.

We offer a robust literacy curriculum that integrates the development of critical thinking and comprehension, while promoting a love of reading that lasts beyond the classroom. Our students are encouraged to explore diverse genres and voices, engage in thoughtful discussions, and express themselves creatively. Through a range of tailored interventions and support programs, we ensure that all learners, regardless of their starting point, have the tools they need to succeed academically and socially.

Our achievements in literacy are reflected not only in our students' impressive academic results but also in their ability to confidently navigate the challenges of the modern world, where literacy extends far beyond the classroom walls. Whether through writing clear, persuasive essays or critically analysing texts, we prepare our students for lifelong success, equipping them with the skills necessary to think independently, communicate effectively, and thrive in a literate society.

Whole-School Literacy Strategy

Vision:
At Pool Hayes Academy, we aim to embed literacy at the heart of our curriculum and school culture. We believe that literacy is not just the responsibility of the English department, but of all subjects and staff. Every student should have the skills to read, write, and communicate effectively, empowering them to thrive academically, socially, and personally.

1. Leadership and Commitment

- **Senior Leadership Team (SLT) Commitment:** The SLT will champion literacy as a whole-school priority. Literacy development will be embedded within the school's overall strategic plan and be monitored regularly.

- **Literacy Lead:** A Literacy Coordinator who will oversee the implementation of the strategy, provide professional development for staff, and monitor progress across all departments.

- **Whole-School Literacy Policy:** Develop and implement a clear literacy policy that defines expectations for reading, writing, speaking, and listening across the curriculum. This policy should outline the roles and responsibilities of all staff, ensuring literacy development is integrated into every subject.

2. Embedding Literacy Across the Curriculum

- **Departmental Responsibility:** All subject areas will include literacy objectives in their schemes of work, such as:

    - **Reading:** Encourage subject-specific reading, from primary sources to fiction, ensuring students engage with various types of texts (e.g., scientific articles, historical texts, mathematical problem sets).

    - **Writing:** Incorporate writing tasks that align with the subject, such as lab reports, essays, reviews, or reflective writing. Ensure a focus on sentence structure, grammar, and clarity.

    - **Speaking and Listening:** Provide opportunities for structured discussions, debates, and presentations in every subject to develop verbal communication and argumentation skills.

- **Explicit Teaching of Key Literacy Skills:** Teachers in all subjects will explicitly model and teach literacy skills relevant to their discipline. For example, a science teacher might model how to use technical vocabulary, while a history teacher focuses on how to structure an analytical argument.

3. Whole-School Literacy Initiatives

- **Reading for Pleasure:** Promote reading beyond the curriculum by establishing:

    - **Reading Challenges** and competitions to motivate students to read widely.

    - **Library Initiatives**: Regular library sessions, book clubs, author visits, and themed reading events.

- **Tiered Vocabulary Instruction:** Identify and teach tiered vocabulary (e.g., Tier 1: everyday words, Tier 2: high-frequency academic words, and Tier 3: subject-specific terms).

- **Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC):** Ensure that students write frequently in all subjects with a focus on clear communication, coherence, and accuracy.

    - **Writing Prompts:** Provide varied writing tasks that encourage students to engage with their learning, reflecting on their knowledge and expressing it creatively.

    - **Peer and Self-Assessment:** Encourage peer review and self-assessment to develop a critical approach to writing and improve revision skills.

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4. Supporting Struggling Readers and Writers

- **Literacy Intervention Programs:** Implement targeted interventions for students who are below age-related expectations, such as:

- o **Reading Intervention**: Provide additional reading sessions, using age-appropriate texts, paired reading, or literacy software tools.

- o **Writing Support**: Offer workshops or one-on-one support focusing on grammar, punctuation, and writing fluency.

- o **Tutoring:** Utilise teaching assistants and literacy tutors to provide extra support for students with specific learning needs.

- **Adaptation in the Classroom:** Teachers will adapt instruction to ensure that all students, regardless of their literacy levels, can access the curriculum. This might include providing alternative formats of reading materials or allowing extended time for writing tasks.

5. Professional Development for Staff

- **Ongoing Training:** Regular professional development will be provided for all staff, focusing on strategies to support literacy across the curriculum. This includes:

  - o Teaching reading comprehension strategies.

  - o Writing strategies, including planning, drafting, and editing.

  - o Incorporating speaking and listening into lessons effectively.

- **Literacy in Lesson Observations:** When observing lessons, SLT and heads of department will focus on how well literacy is being integrated into teaching practices and provide feedback to teachers on how to improve.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Tracking Progress:** Regularly assess students' literacy levels using:

  - o Standardised reading and writing assessments (e.g., Sparx Reader and GL Assessment).

  - o Ongoing formative assessments, including peer assessments and self-assessments, to measure progress.

- **Data-Driven Decisions:** Use literacy assessment data to identify trends and inform future planning, interventions, and professional development needs.

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7. Parent and Community Engagement

- **Parent Partnerships:** Ensure that our literacy policies and emasures are available to parents via the School Website.

- **Reading Partnerships:** Encourage partnerships with local libraries, businesses, and community organizations to promote literacy beyond the school environment.

8. Celebrating Literacy

- **Literacy Awards:** Celebrate students' achievements in literacy with awards and recognition during school assemblies or events.

- **Literacy Week/Month:** Organise annual events, such as a literacy week, where the entire school engages in activities designed to promote reading, writing, and discussion.

Conclusion:

The **Whole-School Literacy Strategy** at Pool Hayes Academy ensures that literacy is not only a subject to be taught but a fundamental skill woven into every aspect of our students' education. By fostering a culture of literacy, we aim to equip our students with the tools they need to succeed in school and beyond, ensuring they are critical thinkers, effective communicators, and lifelong learners.