

Weald of Kent Grammar School

Literacy Policy, incorporating (RWCM) - Reading, Writing, Communication & Mathematics

Good English, well-spoken and well written will open more doors than a college degree... Bad English will slam doors you don't even know exist. –

William Raspberry [Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist]

The Position of Literacy in the Curriculum at Weald of Kent

Literacy, including oracy, is vital for young people in growing towards self-expression and effective communication. This results in successful relationships, empowered careers and self-fulfilment. We recognise that our students are growing up in a richly diverse society, exposed to a vast range of media, and we aim to embrace every opportunity to celebrate writing of all genres and in all forms and to showcase literature produced by, and representative of, all members of our flourishing community. Our objective is to raise attainment in Literacy for all students through our inclusive approach to teaching and learning.

The National Curriculum 2013 recognised the importance of Literacy and language in the curriculum and stated that students who do not learn to speak, read and write fluently and confidently are effectively “disenfranchised.” The Curriculum Review, November 2025, made a number of recommendations:

- The introduction of an oracy framework, to raise the profile and importance of oracy skills in education
- Greater specificity in the teaching of grammar at each key stage
- Changes to English Language at Key Stage 4 to focus on the nature and expression of language and to include a wider range of text types including multi-modal and ephemeral materials
- Changes to English Literature at Key Stage 4, maintaining heritage texts, but broadening out to ensure that texts are fully representative.

Upon leaving Weald of Kent, our students are able to communicate in a sophisticated and sensitive manner both orally and in writing. This is due to our structured and committed approach towards Literacy from Year 7 onwards. Evidence of our students’ skills in these areas is demonstrated on a daily basis across the curriculum.

Each department in the school recognises that improved Literacy levels raises attainment in all subjects. Whilst Literacy is overtly taught in English and Media lessons, all departments recognise and embrace the opportunity to share and develop Literacy and Oracy skills across the curriculum and this is demonstrated in many ways, such as the Word of the Week, published in the weekly Student Bulletins, shown to all classes and displayed on digital noticeboards. From September 2026 the existing fortnightly Literacy lessons in Year 7 and 8 will be enhanced through the highly regarded online platform Bedrock. This provides each student with a bespoke online learning programme for developing attainment in Literacy.

At Weald of Kent, we recognise the importance of teaching our students the skills of psychological and emotional literacy in order that they can face the challenges of a 21st century world and be successful lifelong learners. The November 2025 Curriculum Review identified the importance of students being “exposed to a wide range of perspectives that serve to broaden their horizons”. The fortnightly lessons on Bedrock will broaden students’ awareness of a greater range of ideas, subjects

and viewpoints through the vast selection of online resources that students will read in their personalised learning programme.

At Weald of Kent, we aim to deliver a reading curriculum that meets the needs of each individual student in our school. We ensure, therefore, that texts of all types and genres are available to our students to engage and motivate them. Libraries are well-stocked with fiction, non-fiction, media resources and reading materials of varying types and students are encouraged and supported to read as widely as possible. In line with our school's inclusive approach, our students are exposed to a wide range of authors and texts which are representative of the diverse society that we live in. This supports the November 2025 Curriculum Review's recommendation that all students "are able to see themselves in the curriculum".

Specific Aims for Literacy at Weald of Kent

The specific aims of this policy document are to:

- Enhance students' learning through improved Literacy levels, taking account of each student's starting points.
- Celebrate literature from across the world, produced by writers that represent different cultures, peoples and experiences.
- Develop students' understanding of the importance of Literacy across the curriculum.
- Encourage students to communicate with others effectively, both orally and in writing, with clarity and confidence.
- Raise students' attainment in all subjects, due to improved Literacy levels.
- Stimulate students into becoming fluent, confident, active readers, who read widely and often.
- Instruct students to challenge what they read, to check the reliability of the media that they access and to consider a range of perspectives
- Develop a sense of school-wide interest in, and responsibility for, Literacy.
- Develop and sustain a shared understanding between all staff of the importance of language in students' learning and how we can continue to work as a team to develop students' communication skills.

The Position of Speaking and Listening in the Curriculum at Weald of Kent

We recognise that students need to be able to express themselves coherently and competently in the competitive job market of the future. In order to maintain successful relationships and to attain fulfilment, they need to be able to listen with empathy. Oracy happens within all lessons across the curriculum and is regularly showcased school wide.

- All departments include oracy opportunities within lessons and POS. We are compiling an audit to map these activities school-wide.
- Within the English department, most lessons include opportunities for discussion in pairs, small groups and class wide.
- Within the English curriculum certain activities are assessed for Literacy in Years 7-9, building towards the English Language Speaking and Listening component of the GCSE.
- There are oracy-focused activities in Scholarship lessons in Year 7 and 8 that develop these skills, for example parliamentary debating.
- Extra-curricular opportunities abound for the development of oracy skills, for example: The Poetry Celebration Event [KS3 and 4]; the Symposium [Year 9]; Debating Clubs for KS3 and KS5.
- Enrichment Days throughout the year include oracy activities, such as the Criminology Day in Year 9 and Parliamentary Debating in Year 10.

Specific Aims for Speaking and Listening at Weald of Kent

Our specific aims are to support students in becoming:

- Engaged and sensitive listeners.
- Eloquent speakers who can articulate their ideas, thoughts and suggestions clearly.
- Accomplished speakers in the full range of contexts and groupings.
- Competent in employing a rich and varied vocabulary that they can adapt as necessary.
- Comfortable in speaking in challenging circumstances before a range of audiences.

The Position of Reading in the Curriculum at Weald of Kent

We want our students to engage with a challenging selection of texts, both non-fiction and fiction, in print and online. We recognise that each and every student's interest is ignited by a range of different texts. We aim to ensure that each student has access to appropriate material that matches their interests and that will stretch their knowledge and understanding. Praise and encouragement are provided to each and every reader at the school.

Specific Aims for Reading in the Curriculum at Weald of Kent

Our specific aims are for students to:

- Become confident readers, supporting those with particular needs.
- Read with discernment and understanding, appreciating where language and structure has been adapted for particular purposes.
- Become thoughtful, critical readers, able to identify an argument and recognise inconsistencies and weaknesses.
- Be bold when selecting reading material and unafraid to tackle texts that are less familiar.
- Be able to use the libraries and other available sources to competently research material from a variety of sources, both on paper and in the media.
- Develop a lifelong love of reading. This means enjoying the process of finding a book to engage with, reading it for pleasure and sharing it with others.
- Wisely select, synthesize and evaluate information from a range of sources produced in print and the media.
- Learn to skim, scan and take notes effectively in order to research and appraise texts.

The Position of Writing in the Curriculum at Weald of Kent

Throughout life, students need exemplary writing skills in order to express their needs, ideas and opinions clearly and in detail. We want students to feel empowered when expressing themselves in writing for a range of purposes, not just when demonstrating their learning in examinations and assessments.

Specific aims for Writing in the Curriculum at Weald of Kent

Our specific aims are for students to become:

- Enthusiastic writers, able to express themselves in different styles and for a variety of different purposes.

- Creative writers, willing to explore different genres, characters and ideas in their writing, employing a sophisticated vocabulary.
- Thoughtful and analytical writers, able to explain their response to texts and other inspirational material.
- Present their work neatly and attractively in the appropriate form, whether word processed or hand-written.
- Incorporate accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- It is recognised that there is a cross-over of skills for students when submitting work. Many departments require exemplary essay-writing skills and others require students to submit reports and other documents in a standard form.
- Confident users of technology, where appropriate.
- Aware of the benefits and pitfalls of AI: see separate policy.

The Position of RWCM in the Curriculum at Weald of Kent

RWCM demonstrates that our students can confidently use processes and learning from other subjects and contexts and apply them in a new situation.

Specific Aims for RWCM in the Curriculum at Weald of Kent

Our specific aims in RWCM are to:

- Teach students to understand and use appropriate subject vocabulary across the curriculum.
- Help students use a range of strategies to be accurate writers. We will target and support students with particular needs.
- Support students in and out of the classroom to recognise that RWCM skills are cross-curricular.
- Value Speaking and Listening contributions equally with Reading, Writing and Language work.

Resources at Weald of Kent

Specific Aims with regard to Resources at Weald of Kent

Our specific aims are to provide:

- Relevant material displayed in classrooms, including subject specific vocabulary, examples of good work and information on how to rise to the next level.
- Appropriate materials for students across ability range, genre and form.
- High quality, regularly updated reading material available with a broad representation of ethnicity, genre and culture.
- Access to the school libraries and to ICT sources of information.
- A learning environment which is conducive to good RWCM practice.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation will take place through the following mechanisms:

- Reading Age Tests in Years 7-9 using Bedrock.
- CAT tests in Year 7.
- Regular spelling and reading online tests within Bedrock.

- Analysis of data and focusing on progress made by individual students. This will be regularly reviewed through ALPS and between staff.
- Line management discussions with Student Services, department heads and subject leaders with consistency across the departments.

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