

EMMANUEL COLLEGE  
THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
Philosophical Statement



The cultivation of the English curriculum is orchestrated on the basis of ensuring students are positioned to be both enriched and inspired by the writers they study. Furthermore, the relationship between reading and writing translates the underpinning facets of modelling good practice in order to adopt the techniques as a tool for independent application. In approaching texts as a reader, the analysis of how language shapes meaning develops vocabulary and forms techniques to be characteristic of written style. Therefore, the inter-relational balance of reading and writing is a source of skill, supportively using the enjoyment of reading as a medium to empower the shift toward individual creativity and imagination.

Our aim is to ensure that students are positioned to grasp a strong command of the spoken and written word by promoting high standards of language, literacy and technical accuracy. We strive to develop confident writers who are able to exercise creative flare and adapt their style for purpose, interest and target audience. We offer a reading curriculum that allows breadth and depth; exercising a literary diet across time that extends from the rich history of the literary Canon to the works of modern-day writers. The study of literature in its varied forms such as poetry, prose and drama enables students to explore the writers' craft as well contextual influence.

The works of William Shakespeare are interwoven across all three key stages reflective of his cultural significance, challenging language and the appeal of transitional universal themes. His work is instrumental to the development of critical thinking and the importance of individual perspectives. Rooted in the legacy of cultural heritage, the organisation of the playwright's work is disseminated to allow for development across both age and ability in the areas of character, theme and context.

Students will be introduced to a range of genres inclusive of fiction, non-fiction and original writing. They will develop skills of retrieval, inference and analysis, carving the identity of their own interpretations and opinions. In turn, through the development of expression, students will acquire a wide vocabulary, embedding a clear, accurate and coherent written style. Moreover, we seek to train our students for varied purposes of communication in the arts of speaking and listening, making formal presentations and participation in debate.