SIDNEY STRINGER ACADEMY
WHOLE SCHOOL LITERACY POLICY

- To support and encourage reading
- To teach, support and encourage clear written communication
- To encourage attentive and empathetic listeners
- To provide opportunities for varied and competent oral communication

The requirement included in the National Curriculum for all subjects reads as follows:

‘Pupils should be taught in all subjects to express themselves correctly and appropriately and to read accurately and with understanding. Since standard English, spoken and written, is the predominant language in which knowledge and skills are taught and learned, pupils should be taught to recognise and use standard English.

- In writing, pupils should be taught to use correct spelling and punctuation and follow grammatical conventions. They should also be taught to organise their writing in logical and coherent forms.
- In speaking, pupils should be taught to use language precisely and cogently.
- Pupils should be taught to listen to others, and respond and build on their ideas and views constructively.
- In reading, pupils should be taught strategies to help them read with understanding, to locate and use information, to follow a process or argument and summarise, and to synthesise and adapt what they learn from their reading.

Pupils should be taught the technical and specialist vocabulary of subjects and how to use and spell these words. They should also be taught to use the patterns of language vital to understanding and expression in different subjects. These include the construction of sentences, paragraphs and texts which are often used in a subject, eg language to express causality, chronology, logic, exploration, hypothesis, comparison, and how to ask questions and develop argument.’

The literacy requirements of any Scheme of Work, in any subject, must be integrated into planning. If all teachers of all departments are doing this, it creates a co-ordinated whole-school approach to literacy.

Each subject area should encourage pupils’ appreciation and understanding of the links between talk, reading and writing, and the value of each. Subject areas can support and develop pupils’ learning by reinforcing this understanding and applying it to their subject, therefore saving time and ensuring that pupils have a consistent approach to specific aspects of literacy (reading, writing, speaking and listening). Pupils will know the expectations across the curriculum, their confidence will grow and their ability to take responsibility for their learning will also develop.