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Learners First
Schools Partnership

Connecting People, Promoting Excellence

English Hubs

Learners First English Hub

@Whiston Worrygoose

English Hub Literacy Specialists Additional Information

**Learners First English Hub
@ Whiston Worrygoose**

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As an established Teaching School Partnership and now as an accredited English Hub, our work remains driven by the desire and unwavering determination to improve educational outcomes and transform life chances for all children and young people. As a vehicle through which we can further 'connect people and promote excellence', the Learners First English Hub will support school improvement through engagement and collaboration, particularly within areas serving the most disadvantaged.

Our commitment is to provide the highest quality of expertise and support to schools, without obligation, fear or favour. Through the English Hub, we will use the expertise of high performing lead schools and literacy specialists with proven track records of delivering effective and sustainable early literacy teaching to support this endeavour. Ambition, vision and strategic investment underpin relationships built on trust and shape a motivation to provide constructive, distinctive and comprehensive support to improve and promote:

- Standards of reading
- Early language
- Literacy teaching
- Active participation and engagement in the work of the English Hub.

About English Hubs

In the spring of 2018, the Department for Education (DfE) identified and invited 924 eligible schools to apply to become an accredited English Hub as part of a new national initiative to drive up standards in literacy. Following a competitive application and selection process, the DfE announced the designation of the inaugural English Hubs in autumn 2018.

This network of some of the best performing primary schools has been set up to improve reading standards across the country and improve education outcomes for all children.

English Hubs have been asked to work with schools nationally and in the first instance their work is to focus on the following three key areas:

- Developing early reading through systematic synthetic phonics
- Developing early language and closing the word gap
- Promoting a love of reading

Learners First is thrilled to confirm a lead Teaching School within the partnership, Whiston Worrygoose, was successfully designated as one of only 32 English Hubs in the country. As a partnership, we are excited by the opportunities this creates for local schools and are keen to share more information about the support and resources available and how schools can access and contribute to the work of the English Hub.

As defined by the DfE, each English Hub will:

'...promote a love of reading and support schools across the country to provide excellent phonics and early language teaching. Literacy specialists within each hub will provide tailored support to schools. This will include running events to showcase excellent practice in teaching reading and working with local schools to develop their practice'.

Department for Education (DfE), October 2018

The National Remit of English Hubs

All support offered by the English Hubs across the country will promote the Department's three priority areas:

1. **Early language development:** providing evidence-based approaches to early language development and closing the word gap in school-based early years settings, including appropriate use of formative assessment;
2. **Age-appropriate phonics provision:** encouraging best practice in systematic synthetic phonics teaching from school-based early years provision to the end of Key Stage 1, and as the primary reading strategy throughout the school. This includes:
 - encouraging fidelity to a single systematic synthetic phonics programme;
 - supporting the effective use of decodable books in the early stages of learning to read, as a way of establishing phonic decoding;
 - supporting effective practice in formative assessment in relation to phonics/early reading.
3. **Promoting a love of reading:** encouraging reading for enjoyment including by supporting whole school reading approaches, reading to children at least once a day and encouraging reading at home, developing teachers' knowledge of appropriate children's literature.