

English - KS3 Level Descriptors

3	Reading	Students read a range of texts fluently and accurately. They read independently and can establish meaning. In responding to texts they show understanding of the main points and express preferences. They use their knowledge of the alphabet to locate books and find information.
	Writing	Students' writing is often organised, imaginative and clear. The main features of different forms of writing are used appropriately, beginning to be adapted to different readers. Sequences of sentences extend ideas logically and words are chosen for variety and interest. Spelling is usually accurate. Punctuation to mark sentences - full stops, capital letters and question marks - is used accurately.
	Speaking & Listening	Students' talk shows understanding of main points. Through relevant comments and questions, they show they have listened carefully. They begin to adapt what they say to the needs of the listener, varying the use of vocabulary and the level of detail. They are beginning to be aware of standard English and when it is used.
4	Reading	Students understand significant ideas, themes, events and characters, beginning to use inference and deduction. They refer to the text when explaining their views and are able to locate and use information.
	Writing	Students' writing is often sustained and developed in interesting ways, with organisation generally appropriate for purpose. Vocabulary choices are often adventurous and words are used for effect. Students are beginning to use grammatically complex sentences, extending meaning. Spelling and punctuation are used correctly, and Students are beginning to use punctuation within sentences.
	Speaking & Listening	Students' talk conveys their opinions clearly. They listen carefully in discussions, making contributions and asking questions that are responsive to others' ideas and views. They adapt their spoken language appropriately using standard English vocabulary and grammar.
5	Reading	Students use inference and deduction. They understand that texts fit into historical and literary traditions. They retrieve and collate information from a range of sources.
	Writing	Students' writing is varied and interesting with imaginative vocabulary choices. Sentences, including complex ones and paragraphs are coherent, clear and well developed. Complex words are usually spelt correctly. A range of punctuation is usually used accurately.
	Speaking & Listening	Students' talk engages the interest of the listener by varying their expression and vocabulary. In discussions, they pay close attention to what others say, ask questions to develop ideas and make contributions that take account of others' views. They adapt their spoken language to suit the situation, using standard English.
6	Reading	Students identify different layers of meaning and comment on their significance and effect. They give personal responses to literary texts, referring to aspects of language, structure and themes in justifying their views, and making connections between texts from different times and cultures and their own experiences.
	Writing	Students' writing is fluent and often engages and sustains the reader's interest. Students experiment with a range of sentence structures and varied vocabulary to create effects. Spelling of irregular words is generally accurate. A range of punctuation is usually used correctly and ideas are organised into linked paragraphs.
	Speaking & Listening	Students' talk engages the interest of the listener through the variety and liveliness of both vocabulary and expression. Students take an active part in discussions, showing understanding of ideas and sensitivity to others. They demonstrate their knowledge of language variety and usage effectively and use standard English fluently in formal situations.
7	Reading	Students understand the ways in which meaning and information are conveyed in a range of texts and articulate personal and critical responses showing awareness of themes, structure and language. They understand why some texts are particularly valued and influential. They select, synthesise and compare information.
	Writing	Students' writing is confident and imaginative. Grammar and vocabulary are used accurately and effectively. Spelling is correct, including that of complex irregular words. Paragraphing and correct punctuation are used to make the sequence of events or ideas coherent and clear to the reader.
	Speaking & Listening	Students use vocabulary in creative ways and organise their talk to communicate clearly. They make significant contributions to discussions, evaluating the ideas of others and varying how and when they participate. They use standard English confidently.
8	Reading	Students evaluate how authors achieve their effects through the use of linguistic, structural and presentational devices. They select and analyse information and ideas from different texts. They explore some of the ways in which texts from different times and cultures have influenced literature and society.
	Writing	Students show creativity in the way they select specific features or expressions to convey effects and to interest the reader. Their use of vocabulary and grammar enables fine distinctions to be made or emphasis achieved. Their writing shows a clear grasp of the use of punctuation and paragraphing.
	Speaking & Listening	Students maintain and develop their talk purposefully in a range of contexts. They structure what they say clearly, using apt vocabulary and appropriate intonation and emphasis. They make contributions that show they have listened perceptively and are sensitive to the development of discussions.