Tier 2 Vocabulary Progression

A progressive vocabulary curriculum supporting reading comprehension, spoken language and writing across the primary phase.

Vocabulary Intent Statement

At Cannington C of E Primary School, vocabulary development is at the heart of our curriculum. We explicitly teach ambitious Tier 2 vocabulary to ensure that all pupils develop the language needed to access learning across the curriculum. Through shared reading, explicit vocabulary instruction, discussion and purposeful application, pupils encounter, explore and revisit high-utility academic vocabulary. This structured progression supports reading comprehension, spoken language and high-quality writing, enabling pupils to communicate with increasing precision, confidence and sophistication.

Tier 2 Vocabulary Progression

Year Group	Focus Tier 2 Vocabulary
Year 1	ask, answer, because, before, begin, believe, careful, choose, complete, different, early, explain, follow, happen, important, interest, listen, notice, practice, remember
Year 2	actual, appear, arrange, attempt, build, discover, enough, exercise, familiar, improve, include, measure, observe, ordinary, possible, prepare, promise, purpose, separate, suggest
Year 3	advantage, analyse, approach, compare, conclude, consider,

	context, contrast, describe, evidence, factor, identify, impact, indicate, infer, method, perspective, process, significant, summarise
Year 4	accurate, alternative, assume, category, consequence, consistent, criteria, demonstrate, determine, evaluate, expand, function, generalise, interpret, logical, maintain, primary, relevant, structure, theory
Year 5	abstract, acquire, beneficial, clarify, complex, concept, contribute, derive, effective, emphasise, estimate, frequent, initial, justify, modify, precise, respond, strategy, vary, verify
Year 6	accordingly, allocate, approximate, assess, bias, coherent, compile, criteria, deduce, emerge, fundamental, hypothesis, influence, notion, prioritise, reconcile, sustain, synthesise, validate, whereas

Vocabulary Teaching Progression

Phase	Teaching Focus
EYFS	Develop oral language through story, rhyme, discussion and play. Introduce new vocabulary through shared reading and talk.
Year 1	Introduce vocabulary explicitly within shared reading and discussion.
Year 2	Consolidate understanding through repeated exposure and

	contextual application.
Years 3–4	Teach five Tier 2 words weekly. Explore synonyms, antonyms and morphology.
Years 5–6	Develop deeper understanding through etymology, multiple meanings and application across subjects.

Expected End Points

End of Key Stage	Expected Vocabulary Outcomes
End of KS1	Pupils use expanding vocabulary to discuss texts, explain ideas and communicate meaning.
End of Lower KS2	Pupils understand and apply a broader range of academic vocabulary and explain meanings using context.
End of Upper KS2	Pupils independently use ambitious Tier 2 vocabulary in discussion and writing and understand word relationships.