**Plumbland CE School, English statement**

Our curriculum is based on the National Curriculum and is carefully designed to ensure coverage and progression. It provides pupils with memorable experiences, in addition to diverse and rich opportunities, from which children can learn and develop a range of transferable skills. The children’s own community, its heritage and traditions are frequently used as a starting point for engaging interest. A primary focus of our curriculum is to raise aspirations, create a sense of personal pride in achievement, and provide a purpose and relevance for learning. We provide a curriculum approach that has clear intent, a carefully designed and monitored implementation and a positive impact that allows children to develop knowledge, understanding and skills in each subject.

Within our English lessons we always ensure there are plentiful opportunities for our children to develop their speaking and listening skills. The children can present their ideas, individually, in pairs or small groups to the rest of the class. We use ‘real texts’ as often as possible and have shared reading sessions as we value the importance of fostering a love of books and the enjoyment this can bring. We use the Phonics scheme ‘Read Write Inc’ which is introduced during the Reception year. We have strong links with ‘Cumbria library service’ who visit us termly. We regularly borrow books and take part in the library projects and competitions during the school holidays. As part of our ‘cluster schools’ we take part in the annual school book quiz, which we have won several times. Our regular ‘whole school’ visit to Dove Cottage helps to develop our interest in becoming a writer as we learn about the life of William Wordsworth and take part in the creative writing sessions there. We are using the ‘letter join’ scheme to help our children with their joined handwriting which they do from an early age.