

Drama in Literacy for Life

The aim of Literacy for Life 4L is provide students with a broad understanding of knowledge and skills from different subject areas, but that are transferrable across curriculums and in later life. The competencies within the L4L curriculum underpin this and are designed in a way that allows students to see particular skills are not exclusive to specific subject areas, and knowledge they learn relates to various other elements of their development in school. The skills that can transcend other subjects relate to working in various team-based scenarios, responding to stimuli and generating original ideas. The more subject-specific skills relate to how performances are shaped and the use of devising and performance techniques.

Content and Skills

Within the L4L curriculum, students use skills and techniques to explore historical events and literature from English. This enables them to gain greater understanding of the people behind the events, and the depth of characters and narratives within established stories; both of which develop their sense of empathy and understanding of societies. In terms of shaping and presenting pieces of practical work, students learn about the various ways in which performances can be created and how to use fundamental skills to build performance such as still image and physical theatre, as well as using skills to explore characters and stories, such as hot-seating and thought-tracking.

Drama Competencies in L4L

In the absence of National Curriculum guidance for Drama, subject specialists have clarified what students should be expected to learn and develop within KS3 to enable them to succeed in KS4 study.

Drama work in L4L is assessed through some of the Creative competencies. Throughout the curriculum, these competencies are assessed at different points to ensure students are developing their learning in this art form. Students are assessed in two different forms; they will receive feedback in the form of which level of the competency they have achieved, and they will receive more specific feedback in terms of WWW (What Went Well) and PFI (Points for Improvement). The Drama specific competencies are:

- C.OT.02 – Developing Ideas
- C.DR.01 – Explore Ideas, Text and Movement
- C.DR.02 – Performing to an Audience

Staff Training

Within L4L, we have made sure that there have been a variety of ways in which teaching staff have been upskilled in their understanding and delivery of Drama within lessons. This includes CPD sessions with subject-specialists, joint planning meetings, additional research, learning walks, sharing of best practice and video examples that support the teaching and learning of Drama.

Drama Delivery in L4L

In the KS4 Drama guidance provided by the Government, the content has been split into “Knowledge and Understanding”, and “Skills”. To this end, the table below shows how Drama is delivered in KS3 and what area of the KS4 requirements it covers.

It is important to note that the vast amount, if not all, of the dramatic work that they undertake within L4L will require students to use the skills of *devising, rehearsing and refining their work*, which all fall

under the required skills at KS4. Similarly, students will always be required to become *performers* and *directors* within their work, which sits under the Knowledge and Understanding category. Therefore, by the nature of the tasks that they are given, they are always developing these aspects of their learning in Drama tasks listed below.

KS4 Requirements Area	Skills/Knowledge Learned	Year Covered	Theme Covered	Lesson Title
Skills	Still Image	7	Journey to the Centre of the Earth	Dr Who and the Fires of Pompeii
Knowledge and understanding Skills	Characterisation Their contribution to the final performance Use of Voice	7	Fairy Tales	The Mechanicals Helena and Demetrius
Knowledge and Understanding	Form and Style	7	Water	Why do we talk about the weather – Extreme Weather
Knowledge and Understanding	Genre	7	Off With Your Head	Life in Tudor England
Knowledge and Understanding Skills	Genre Style and Form Performance Conventions Developing Ideas	7	Silent Movies	Creating Slapstick Comedy The Art of Mime Development and Rehearsal Filming
Knowledge and Understanding	Performance Conventions Style and Form	8	Pudding Lane	What was the Great Plague?
Knowledge and Understanding	Genre Style and Form	8	India	Bollywood and Melodrama



	Performance Conventions			
Knowledge and Understanding	Performance Structure Characterisation	8	Please Sir	The Workhouses Oliver Script Writing