

Year 8 Functional Skills - English

Functional Skills are a set of qualifications designed to provide skills needed in everyday life. At Balcarras we cover English and Maths.

Y8 are currently working towards Entry Level 3 English with a view to completing Speaking, Listening and Communicating and Reading assessments by the end of Year 9.

In the Speaking, Listening and Communicating assessment pupils complete tasks in which they give explanations, ask and answer questions and conduct a discussion.

To prepare for this, pupils have opportunities to practise speaking and listening activities which encourage and develop the following:

- Clear communication of information and opinions
- Listening and responding to others' explanations
- Contribution to group discussions on topics which are familiar to them
- Understanding the main points of a discussion and responding appropriately whilst respecting the conventions of turn taking

In the reading test pupils read a range of texts and answer questions on them. Some are multiple choice, others involve writing an answer. Marks are not lost for spelling, punctuation or grammar mistakes and full sentences are not required.

To prepare for this, pupils are given plenty of practice in the following:

- Using a dictionary
- Identifying the main point
- Identifying the purpose
- Finding information through key words and layout