

Meeting the National Curriculum

Our writing curriculum fully meets the requirements of the National Curriculum by providing a carefully sequenced progression of knowledge, skills and understanding from EYFS to Year 6. The curriculum develops children's competence in composition, transcription, spelling, handwriting, vocabulary, grammar and punctuation through explicit teaching and regular opportunities for application.

In EYFS, pupils develop the prerequisite physical, communication and language skills that underpin successful writing. Daily phonics teaching enables children to apply their growing knowledge of graphemes and phonemes to spelling and early sentence writing, while daily handwriting instruction establishes correct letter formation and pencil control.

In Key Stage 1, pupils learn to compose and orally rehearse sentences, apply phonics knowledge to spelling, use age-appropriate punctuation and develop increasingly fluent handwriting. Through Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised, children learn how sounds and letters work together and how spelling patterns develop. The progression into Bridge to Spelling in Year 2 ensures that children move successfully from phonics-based spelling to a deeper understanding of spelling conventions and word structures.

Handwriting progression is carefully planned from Reception onwards. Children learn correct posture, pencil grip, letter formation, sizing and spacing before progressing to joined handwriting. In Key Stage 2, Letter-Join further develops handwriting fluency, consistency and presentation, ensuring pupils can write efficiently across all subjects.

Throughout Key Stage 2, Spelling Shed supports the systematic teaching of the National Curriculum spelling requirements. Pupils learn statutory spelling patterns, common exception words, prefixes, suffixes, morphology and etymology through investigation, practice and application. Regular retrieval practice, assessment and opportunities for application in extended writing ensure learning is retained and transferred into everyday writing.

Writing units are carefully sequenced across the school to ensure progression in genre knowledge, compositional skills, vocabulary development and grammatical understanding. Pupils revisit and build upon prior learning, with increasing complexity of texts, writing outcomes and authorial techniques. The curriculum provides regular opportunities for planning, drafting, editing and improving writing, enabling children to become reflective and independent writers.

As a result, pupils develop the knowledge, skills and confidence required to meet and exceed National Curriculum expectations, producing writing that is accurate, purposeful, fluent and increasingly sophisticated as they progress through the school.