

St Faith's Church of England Infant and Nursery School

Talk for Writing

Writing Intent

At St Faith's Church of England Infant and Nursery School, we want our children to develop a life-long love of language and literacy. Through the teaching of English, our children develop the essential skills needed to prepare them for life. The skills taught in all areas of English ensure that the children can successfully access all other areas of the curriculum with growing independence and confidence to equip them for their future. We know that future success is linked directly to a broad vocabulary, love of reading and ability to communicate effectively through writing.

- To enjoy writing for a range of purposes.
- To be able to write independently, applying the skills that have been taught.
- To develop and use a wide range vocabulary and use within their writing through opportunities to learn, practise and apply new words.
- To secure a good understanding in the basic skills of transcription, grammar, vocabulary, punctuation and composition.
- To confidently communicate their knowledge, ideas and emotions through their writing.
- To develop clear and coherent handwriting where all letters are formed correctly and appropriately sized.

Throughout the EYFS and Key Stage One, our children have many opportunities to develop and apply their writing. The development of language, reading and physical development play an integral role in a child's writing journey. Early writing is encouraged through mark making opportunities in our nursery, alongside the development of language in all aspects of the curriculum, particularly Talk for Writing sessions. We acknowledge and celebrate that behind every squiggle is a meaning or a story. This continues into Reception where we continue to enthuse children to write for a range of purposes and use a range of language in their composition. The Talk for Writing texts are carefully chosen to support writing development, alongside our high expectations and the belief that every child is a writer. This is mirrored in our consistent and engaging whole school approach.

Talk for Writing continues into Key Stage 1 where key focus texts are used to further develop language and their writing skills. We know that learning has to become part of a child's long term memory for it to be effective, consequently we know that intelligent repetition and skilled teaching is the key. We rarely teach skills in isolation, such as grammar, and punctuation – we include them in a well thought out unit of work that enables children to make links, apply taught skills in a context and see a purpose to their work. This is supported by opportunities to write across the curriculum, ensuring that the writing has a purpose and is relevant to their own experiences.

Furthermore, we have high expectations and aspirations for all children and to ensure that all learners make good progress in their writing from their starting point, striving to achieve their full potential.

Writing Implementation

In all year groups, our Talk for Writing topics begin with a creative hook. These focus around real life experiences and prepares everyone for a new focus text in an enthusiastic and engaging way.

We use a range of strategies and techniques for the teaching of writing and these include:

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- Text mapping and oral rehearsal of texts and composition.
- Whole class and group storytelling to apply language learnt and further develop composition skills.
- 'Reading as a reader' and 'reading as a writer' activities for children to develop their range of language, understanding of different text types and grammatical skills. We encourage all children to be adventurous and selective with the vocabulary they choose to use.
- Short burst writing activities, to develop and practise skills before applying it to the focus text.
- Modelled and shared writing - It is vital that children see their teachers write and know that effective writing takes time and effort. We frequently model the writing and editing process and encourage child input through shared writing. By teaching this way, we can scaffold and support our children's writing and aim to make our expectations clear and ensure that all children achieve.
- Guided writing – developing skills of composition and accuracy as a group.
- Independent writing – providing scaffolding and guidance to ensure every child achieves within the session, whilst maintaining elements of challenge to maximise progress.
- Innovation – once the children have developed relevant skills and internalising focus texts we change them together and then the children have opportunities to innovate their own.
- The key characteristics of different types of writing are taught and developed in extended writing sessions and through cross-curricular contexts. Children are given as many 'real' reasons for writing as possible to make it purposeful and meaningful. They write for a range of audiences and explore a range of text types, having opportunities to empathise, explore different view points, characters and perspectives.
- Handwriting is also taught as a discrete session, rigorously following the Penpals Handwriting Programme. In the EYFS this also involves the development of both gross and fine motor skills and children are encouraged to develop a comfortable and effective pencil grip.

Our Progression of Knowledge and Skills document for Writing, sets out guidance of the expectations and skills taught within each year group. These are used to support planning for a range of writing genres ensuring progression and the development of skills from nursery to Year 2.

Writing Impact

The impact on our children is clear: progress, sustained learning and transferrable skills. Our high expectations and enthusiasm promote a love of writing with our St Faith's Family. Both summative and formative assessments are used to carefully plan next steps for groups and individuals.

In writing:

- Children will enjoy writing across a range of genres, for different purposes and with increasing independence.
- Children of all abilities and starting points will be able to succeed in all writing lessons. This is because of appropriate scaffolding, personalised activities and building on their previous learning. Children are also given the opportunity to edit and improve their own work.

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- Children will have a wide vocabulary that they use within their writing through opportunities to learn, practise and apply new words.
- Children will leave our school being able to effectively apply spelling rules and patterns they have been taught.
- All children will have a good understanding in the basic skills of transcription, grammar, vocabulary, punctuation and composition.
- We aim for everyone to be able to confidently communicate their knowledge, ideas and emotions through their writing.
- Children are taught to recognise their attainment and the progress they have made through quality marking and feedback.
- Parents and carers will have a good understanding of how they can support at home, and how writing is taught across our school.
- We strive for the percentage of children working at the expected level and beyond within each year group will be at least in line with national averages.
- We aim for there to be no significant gaps in the progress of different groups of pupils (e.g. disadvantaged vs non-disadvantaged).

We strive for all children to reach their full potential and ensure that they are fully prepared for the next stage of their writing journey.