

Our Writing approach

Our writing curriculum ensures pupils are immersed in diverse, high-quality texts from a wide range of authors, genres and cultures, which both inspire their writing and broaden their perspectives. Vocabulary and language development are explicitly taught through ambitious word choices and oracy at the heart of the curriculum. This enables pupils to express themselves with precision and confidence.

These texts also serve as a springboard for writing, providing models of ambitious vocabulary, structure and style. Through guided and independent writing experiences, our pupils are encouraged to express their own ideas, develop creativity and write with confidence, purpose and flair.

The teaching of writing follows a consistent approach known as 'a writing journey'. The children explore high-quality texts and become engaged in the characters, setting and language. After this stage is complete, they move on to a developmental stage. Here the children are taught explicit grammatical, punctuation and stylistic skills. Finally, when these writing skills are mastered, the children compose their own piece of writing in which their newly developed skills are demonstrated. Guided, peer and independent editing is carried out during this stage and is an essential writing tool.

Handwriting

We are committed to enable pupils to achieve a high standard of handwriting and presentation of written work by teaching the skills using a progressive and sequential approach. For younger writers, we use Read, Write Inc's '*Letter Village*' which is fun and interactive. The children learn to become fluent writers using memorable visual cues. Children are introduced to a cursive style of writing from Year 2 onwards.

Good handwriting increases children's motivation: their belief in themselves as writers is grounded in this.

Spelling

The teaching of spelling begins with Read Write Inc. Once the children have completed the programme, they move on to '*Spelling Shed*'. This a structured, research-driven approach to teaching spelling that combines explicit teacher instruction with engaging, gamified, and multi-sensory online practice. It focuses on phonics, morphology, and etymology. It helps children to understand the 'why' behind spelling.