



Writing

Intent

At Westfields Infant School, we want children to develop the knowledge, skills and competencies to access the next stage in their learning. In addition to this, we actively encourage and motivate the children to develop positive attitudes, skills and habits so that they are well equipped for the future.

At Westfields Infant School, our intention is to provide children with a high-quality English curriculum that will teach children to speak, read and write fluently so that they can communicate effectively. Our aim with our writing curriculum is that all children develop the knowledge, skills and tools to become independent writers and that they see the value and purpose in the writing process.

Language is fundamental to making meaning and to developing our views and opinions of the world around us. It is crucial for children to learn to communicate fluently in both spoken and written form. We have a thorough and well organised curriculum driven by engaging text drivers that provide many purposeful opportunities for the development of spoken language and writing. Our aim is to equip children with the skills needed to be able to orally rehearse, plan, compose, revise and evaluate their writing and it is our intent to ensure that by the end of Key Stage 1, all children will be confident, capable and enthusiastic writers who can apply their skills to access all areas of the curriculum, as well as nurturing their own enjoyment for these key skills.

At Westfields Infant School, our writing curriculum has been developed based on the area of learning of Literacy within [Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage](#) and the [National Curriculum for English](#)

The National Curriculum for English aims to ensure that all pupils:

- acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage
- write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences
- use discussion in order to learn; they should be able to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas
- are competent in the arts of speaking and listening, making formal presentations, demonstrating to others and participating in debate

Implementation

Writing

In Reception, there are a many opportunities to apply, as well as extend, phonemic awareness and fine motor skills through enhanced and continuous provision. The foundations for composition are forged through weekly vocabulary lists, opportunities for role play and small world exploration.

Specific skills which relate to transcription are developed through daily whole class handwriting lessons and 'Drawing Club' sessions. Drawing Club gives children the freedom to express their ideas, orally rehearse sentence structure and focus on quality over quantity. All sessions use high quality texts which are selected based on the children's interests.

In Key Stage 1, writing skills are taught during the English and phonics sessions but opportunities to implement these skills are planned for across other curriculum areas. Writing in English is planned and taught through learning journeys which begin with high quality, engaging texts that model excellent writing practices across a broad range of genres. Each writing skill is broken down into smaller parts for teaching and practising, before combining these elements to produce a piece of extended writing. Effective writing is modelled by the class teacher so the children are clear about writing expectations. In Year 1, children start to re-read and edit their own writing and this is continued in Year 2.

As part of our writing curriculum, we ensure that time is spent on supporting children to make links between phonics, reading and writing and endeavour for all children to acquire a growing vocabulary, solid understanding of grammar and the ability to spell new words effectively choosing and applying spelling patterns and rules that have been taught.

Spelling

Spelling is taught in Reception and Year 1 through the Little Wandle phonics scheme. In Year 2 and thereafter, children move on to learn word spellings and patterns following the National Curriculum, using the Little Wandle spelling programme.

Handwriting

At Westfields Infant School, we aim for children to develop a clear, fluent, joined style that they are proud of. Children in Year R begin practising formations using Little Wandle Handwriting phrases from their first full week of school. Following on from this, the 'Penpals' scheme is then used to support the teaching and learning of handwriting in KS1 through to KS2. This allows for a consistent approach and progression of handwriting skills across The Federation.

We believe that good presentation skills are important as we want children to value their own work and for others to do the same. By introducing and teaching handwriting from Reception, our aim is then for children to be able to focus upon the content of their writing by Year 2 rather than on the mechanics of handwriting.

Spoken Language

Our curriculum encourages children to speak clearly, confidently and with expression as well as to respectfully listen to others. Role play, opportunities for group or paired discussion and practising new vocabulary are carefully planned for in all subject areas. At Christmas, all children are involved in a Christmas performance and throughout the year they participate in a varied range of public speaking opportunities aimed to enhance oracy skills.

Impact

The impact of our writing learning can be seen within books, on classroom and whole school displays and by speaking to the children themselves. We measure the impact regularly through:

- Whole class and verbal feedback
- Recapping prior learning at the beginning of each lesson and plenary activities
- Teacher assessment, self-assessment and peer assessment of learning
- Submission and subsequent analysis of end of term writing judgements, identifying children not achieving expected standard and those exceeding
- Subject monitoring e.g. pupil conferencing, book monitoring and planning monitoring

When children leave Westfields Infant School, they enjoy writing across a range of genres, can write for a range of purposes and audiences and become confident and effective communicators,

making good progress from their own personal starting points. They will have developed their ability to have the writing skills and writing stamina needed for the next stage of their education. Children will have developed a varied vocabulary that they can use across the curriculum and can apply spelling rules and grammatical concepts in their work. Children will be proud of their writing and will have had the opportunity to see their efforts on display and shared with others.