

Writing at Old Park

Writing is led by our English Lead.

Why Do We Teach Writing at Old Park?

At Old Park Primary School it is our intention to provide our pupils with a high-quality education in English. Our English curriculum has been developed to recognise the importance of English in every aspect of daily life and to develop children's love of reading, writing and discussion. Our school values embody what learning is about and each and every lesson aims to encompass them.

English at Old Park Primary School is designed to be relevant to our children's lives. Our aim is to broaden their understanding of the world around them, whilst developing an appreciation for their own heritage. Our curriculum is designed to leave no learner behind. Our lessons include engaging stimuli, links to History, Geography and Science topics as well as regular opportunities to model and share learning. Lessons are resourced with communication and writing aids to help children with EAL and SEND. Our children will all have their own experiences and it is our aim to celebrate these differences, whilst also creating new, exciting and shared experiences through developing a love for writing.

Our writing lessons will teach children to become enthusiastic writers, who can write fluently and communicate their ideas effectively. We will scaffold learning towards the production of a certain text type. This will be achieved over a series of lessons, through text & language immersion, unpicking of different text types (language and structural features), speaking & listening, drama, shared writing & related GPS activities. The learning journey will lead to producing a final writing outcome e.g. letter or a diary. In spelling, we teach the relationship between words, how to understand nuances in meaning and how to use strategies to learn spelling rules.

Our intent is to enable children to:

- Write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences
- Develop a love of writing and to be able to express their thoughts and ideas clearly and creatively through the written word.
- Re-read, edit and improve their own writing
- Confidently use the essential skills of grammar, punctuation and spelling
- Acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language

How Do We Teach Writing?

We are working hard to promote our pupils' English and ensure that they all achieve to the very best of their ability. Pupils are encouraged to read widely and often. English is fundamental to all subjects. Consequently, we believe that all stakeholders have a role to play in supporting and developing our pupils' English skills to ensure they can communicate effectively in today's society. All children are expected to follow our school's non-negotiables for presentation. This includes a focus on learning to write in the cursive script.

The Writing Journey at Old Park Primary School

- Pupils will begin the writing journey by identifying the PAT (purpose, audience and text type).
- A quality WAGOLL (What A Good On Looks Like) will be shared with the pupils and this will be analysed to identify the language and structural features.
- A crucial part of the writing journey is the opportunity to explore vocabulary for purpose. Pupils will 'magpie' appropriate words/phrases in order to create a bank of vocabulary that is suitable for the PAT.
- Grammar and punctuation objectives, which suit the text type, will be taught where appropriate. They should, where possible, be taught in context and not discretely.
- Pupils will plan their writing in the most appropriate way: story map, boxing up, etc. Teachers will use short burst shared writing sessions throughout the journey.
- Pupils will be given time to write independently. This may be broken down into sections.
- Pupils/teachers will assess the independent writing against the success criteria.
- Pupils will edit their writing, based on self/teacher assessment.
- Pupils will re-draft a section of their independent writing, using a green pen.

Grammar and Punctuation at Old Park Primary School

Each year group has grammar objectives that they are to cover taken from the National Curriculum. Where appropriate, these objectives should be taught in context and not discretely.

Shared Writing at Old Park Primary School

- Teachers model writing, in short bursts, throughout the writing journey. They will focus the learning on newly taught skills, composition, effect and syntax.
- Teachers develop pupils' vocabulary by challenging their word choices and by introducing more advanced vocabulary.
- Teachers will model the cursive script at all times.
- In Years 3-6, every child has a writing journal that they use to 'magpie' words and phrases to support their independent writing.
- Children are provided with writing toolkits to support their ideas and vocabulary choices. The teacher will model appropriate use of the toolkit during the writing process.

Spelling at Old Park Primary School

We follow two spelling programmes here at Old Park Primary School. For children in the early stages of Writing we use Read Write Inc. Embedding the alphabetic code early on means that pupils quickly learn to write simple words and sentences. We encourage them to compose each sentence aloud until they are confident to write independently. We make sure they write every day in either Phonics or English- often both.

Alongside RWI we use No Nonsense Spelling. The programme has a clear progression through blocks of teaching units across the year for Years 2-6. The programme is built on high-quality phonics teaching by supporting children in understanding morphology, spelling strategies, the orthographic nature of words, patterns, word origins, common exception words and personal spellings. The termly overviews have been mapped across weeks as half-termly plans and follow a model of five spelling sessions across two weeks (although in Year 2 these are daily). See [Old Park Primary Spelling Policy](#) and [RWI Policy](#) for further information.

Does Our Writing Curriculum Influence Our Children?

Pupils will make good progress from their own personal starting points. By the end of Year Six they will be able to write clearly and accurately and adapt their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences. Our pupils will acquire a wide vocabulary and have a strong command of the written word. Most importantly, they will be creative writers with a passion for English and will be well equipped for the rest of their education.