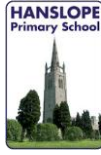


Hanslope Primary School



A Parent's Guide to Writing

Helping every child become a confident writer

At Hanslope Primary School, we believe that writing is an essential tool for communication, creativity and learning. Our aim is for every child to become a confident and increasingly independent writer who can communicate their ideas clearly, creatively and effectively.

As children move through the school, they learn to write for different purposes and audiences, make increasingly deliberate choices about language and vocabulary, and develop the stamina needed to produce longer pieces of writing.

What does writing look like at Hanslope?

Writing is much more than putting words on a page. We help children develop as writers by teaching them to:

Read widely

High-quality books, stories, poetry and other texts provide children with ideas, vocabulary and examples of how writers communicate effectively.

Talk before they write

Children discuss, explain and rehearse their ideas aloud. Talk helps them organise their thinking and develop the language they need for writing.

Build vocabulary

We deliberately develop children's vocabulary through reading, discussion, teaching and experiences across the curriculum.

Understand how writing works

Teachers model how writers make choices about vocabulary, sentences, organisation and structure.

Improve their writing

Children learn that good writing is a process. They plan, write, re-read, edit and improve their work.

Write for a reason

Children write for different audiences and purposes, helping them understand that the way we write changes depending on who will read it and why.

Develop independence and stamina

Children gradually move from composing simple ideas and sentences to producing longer, increasingly sophisticated pieces of writing.

How does writing develop through the school?

EYFS – Building the foundations

In the Early Years, children develop the foundations for writing through talk, storytelling, books, play, mark-making and meaningful experiences.

- talk about and organise their ideas
- retell stories and experiences
- develop a rich vocabulary
- rehearse sentences aloud
- communicate ideas through marks, drawings, words and early writing
- begin to write simple sentences

At this stage, talk and storytelling are particularly important. Children are developing the language and ideas they will eventually use as writers.

Key Stage 1 – Becoming a writer

In Years 1 and 2, children begin to develop greater confidence and independence.

- compose sentences orally before writing
- sequence ideas into short pieces of writing
- write for different purposes
- develop their vocabulary
- re-read their writing to check that it makes sense
- begin to make improvements to their work
- develop positive attitudes and stamina for writing

Children are encouraged to see themselves as real authors, with their own ideas and choices.

Lower Key Stage 2 – Developing control

In Years 3 and 4, children develop greater control over their writing.

- plan and organise their ideas
- structure writing into paragraphs
- develop characters, settings and plots
- choose increasingly precise vocabulary
- use their reading to inspire their own writing
- consider their audience and purpose
- review and edit their work to make it clearer and more effective

Children increasingly understand that writers make deliberate choices about the words and structures they use.

Upper Key Stage 2 – Becoming an independent and effective writer

By Years 5 and 6, children are developing the skills needed to become increasingly independent writers.

- adapt their writing for different audiences and purposes
- select vocabulary precisely
- use language and sentence structures deliberately
- organise ideas effectively
- develop character, setting and atmosphere
- create cohesion across their writing
- edit and refine their work
- write with increasing fluency, stamina and independence

Our aim is for children to leave Hanslope able to communicate confidently and effectively through writing and ready for the next stage of their education.

Why is talking so important?

You may notice that your child sometimes talks a lot before they start writing! This is intentional.

At Hanslope, we see spoken language as an important bridge between thinking and writing. Children are given opportunities to discuss ideas, explore vocabulary and rehearse sentences before committing them to paper.

So, when your child tells you their story before writing it, they are already doing some very important writing work!

Reading and writing go hand in hand

Children's writing is strengthened by the books they read. Through high-quality texts and rich reading experiences, children encounter new vocabulary, different sentence structures, interesting ideas and different styles of writing.

Children are encouraged to draw upon these experiences when developing their own writing.

This is one reason why reading regularly at home is one of the best ways you can support your child's writing.

What do we want our writers to become?

Confident – willing to share their ideas and have a go.

Creative – able to use imagination and develop their own ideas.

Purposeful – understanding why they are writing and who they are writing for.

Accurate – applying their knowledge of spelling, grammar and punctuation.

Thoughtful – able to choose vocabulary and structures carefully.

Independent – able to plan, write, review and improve their own work.

Resilient – understanding that great writing develops through drafting, editing and improvement.

How can parents help?

You do not need to be a writing expert to support your child. Some of the most helpful things you can do are:

Read together

Talk about the books you read. Ask your child about interesting words, characters, ideas and events.

Talk!

Encourage your child to explain their ideas, tell stories, describe experiences and explain their thinking.

Explore new words

If you come across an unfamiliar or interesting word, talk about what it means and how it could be used.

Encourage writing for real purposes

Shopping lists, birthday cards, letters, diaries, stories, instructions and messages are all opportunities to write.

Be interested in their writing

Ask your child to read their writing to you and tell you about the choices they have made.

Focus on the message

Encourage your child to get their ideas down. Writing improves through practice, discussion and editing.

Our Hanslope Writing Journey from EYFS to Year 6

Talk → Read → Explore → Plan → Write → Review → Improve → Share

Throughout their time at Hanslope, children revisit these aspects of writing with increasing independence and sophistication.

Our progression is carefully designed so that children build their knowledge and skills over time, while continuing to develop their own voice, creativity and confidence as writers.