

Writing at Harrow Gate Academy

Intent

At Harrow Gate, all **writing is purposeful and valued**. We aim to develop **children as writers, who see themselves as writers and have positive attitudes towards writing**.

Writing is a complicated and intricate process, to enable a child to become a writer you have given them a voice, supported them to communicate and provided them with a skill that is vital for all of their schooling and in their life beyond.

*'Learning to write begins – whatever the learner's age - with seeing oneself as a writer, doing things writers do, and thinking the way writers think. **This is a matter of identity**, not of instruction, or of effort, or even of desire to learn. Teacher has a crucial role to play here, not in teaching the technicalities of writing, but in **engendering appropriate attitudes to writing**'.*

Smith, Frank (1994:180) **Joining the Literacy Club**

Implementation

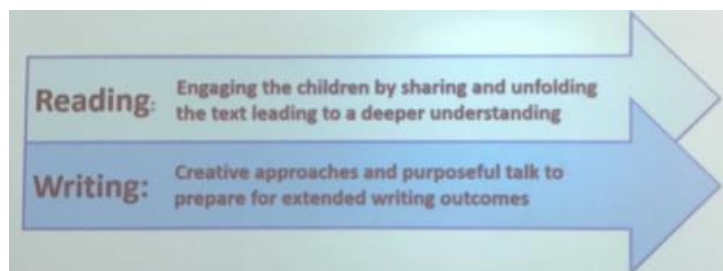
CLPE is at the heart of our English curriculum.

We pride ourselves in being a CLPE Power of Reading Associate School.



Writing always has to have a **real purpose and authentic audience**. Children need to know that their writing will be **valued by a reader** whether that is themselves, their peers, or an adult in school, parents or a wider audience on Twitter.

Reading plays a crucial role in developing writers. Children are immersed in **high quality texts**.



Each half term, each class reads a different high quality text that has been carefully selected on the text based curriculum map. Each classroom will have **'books that remind me of'** which are other high quality texts that relate and support the main text. Time is invested in high quality texts so that the children are engaged with the reading which results in them wanting to write and knowing what to write about.

We use a range of **creative teaching approaches** that build imagination, provide opportunities for ideation and give time for oral rehearsal. Approaches such as role play and drama also promote engagement and attainment in writing.

We use the **CLPE teaching sequences** that go with the high quality text as a starting point. Teachers then 'S Plan' and identify writing opportunities and the teaching strategies that will be used to support the children's writing.

Spelling and handwriting are taught discretely but opportunities often arise in texts to consolidate the spelling patterns taught.

Grammar objectives are identified at the 'S Planning stage' and careful consideration is given to how they will be taught so that they are purposeful to what the children are writing. This provides them with opportunities to see **grammar in action** when reading and also to use it in a **purposeful and meaningful way**. Grammar objectives have been closely matched with the half termly text.

Opportunities for **publication** are identified in the planning stages and a range of outcomes including book making, movie maker and green screen are amongst some of the ways that children publish their writing for a wider audience.

Environments allow children to access the tools and resources they need to become **independent writers** by the end of year 6.

CLPE Reading and Writing Scales

The CLPE Reading and Writing Scales describe the journey that children make in order to become literate. They help teachers to understand what progression looks like in reading and writing. The pedagogy underpinning the scales and the 'Next Steps' is grounded in a coherent theory of children's language and literacy development. The scales are designed to support and develop teacher subject knowledge in literacy development, not to set out a linear sequence of targets that children need to reach in order to move to the next phase.



Writing is a journey. It is important that teachers understand where their children are on the scale so that they can support them in their next steps on their journey to becoming an independent writer. The scales are used to develop teacher's understanding of the continuum of literacy learning.

Impact

Our school provides a **text rich reading and writing environment** that allows children to thrive as writers.

It is a place where children see themselves as writers, are developing positive attitudes towards writing and their own authorial voice. Our vision is to become a **'writing for pleasure school'** where children choose to write because they enjoy writing.