

Writing Policy

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Vision for Writing at Lowerplace

Our goal is to become a school of extraordinary writers where reaching the national standard is the norm and the greater-depth standard becomes our standard. Children will view themselves as writers, who are authentically engaged, demonstrating intrinsic motivation and enjoyment. They will also feel a deep sense of satisfaction from crafting writing that is of the highest quality. Therefore, writing is central to everything that we do.

Firstly, children and teachers write together every day. They write for many different purposes, and for a variety of audiences. Children write primarily for themselves, they write about what they are most knowledgeable and passionate about. They also write to communicate their thinking about what they learn in the wider curriculum. They write to entertain, to *paint with words*, to persuade and share their opinions, to teach others, to make a record of things they do not want to forget, and to reflect on their own thoughts and personal experiences. They write about themselves and their cultures. They also write to reflect and sustain the cultures of people they might not have met. They share their writing and discuss their development with their peers, teachers and caregivers. They learn how to live the writer's life.

Children read as writers. They investigate genres of writing through whole class writing projects. During a writing project, children will:

- Discuss the purpose of the project.
- Read and discuss a variety high-quality texts.
- Read and discuss mentor texts written by their peers and their writer-teachers.
- Help construct the product goals for the project.
- Identify the audience(s) for their writing and consider their needs.
- Explore and then agree an idea about which they would like to write.

Through bespoke grammar lessons and writing mini-lessons, children learn:

- How to use and apply, in their own compositions, the same features and expert techniques they have identified in the high-quality texts and mentor texts they've read.
- How to attend to their spellings, handwriting, grammar, and sentence construction. This helps them write happily and fluently.
- A whole host of craft knowledge - this includes writerly strategies and techniques for negotiating the writing processes.
- How to take an idea and develop it into a successful publication.

We support children by:

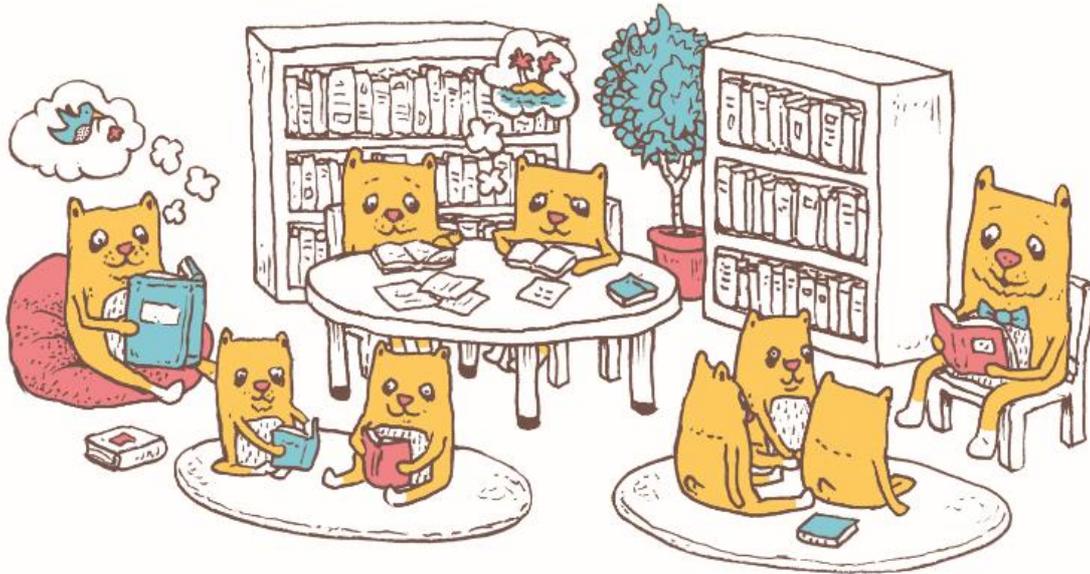
- Providing them with clear processes and ambitious writing goals.
- Giving them ample time and instruction in how to plan and how to improve on what they have already written through specific revision and proofreading sessions.
- Verbal and written feedback to help transform their first drafts into polished published pieces.

We devote at least one hour a day to the explicit teaching of writing and children write meaningfully for a sustained period every single day. We believe this is the only way they can learn about the discipline of writing and of being a writer. Children ~~will~~ also have access to personal writing journals, which travel freely between home and school. We want them to live the writer's life and to be in a constant state of composition.

We create genuine writing communities in our classrooms. Children write in positive and enthusiastic writing environments, led by passionate writer-teachers. Our classrooms are a mixture of creative writing

workshops and professional publishing houses. They are rigorous, highly organised and reassuringly consistent. Pupils are encouraged to take risks and to be innovative, but also to write with focus and serious intent.

We adapt our teaching depending on what individual children need instruction in most. Our teaching takes account of the high number of children who are new to English or have SEND. Whether they are in Reception or Year Six and regardless of where they are in their development or experience, all children are treated as writers and are helped not only to write pieces which are successful in terms of the objectives of the curriculum but also meaningful to them as young authors.

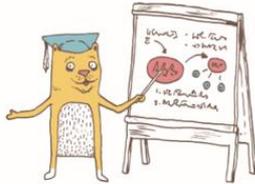


Intent for Writing

How children’s knowledge of writing and of being a writer progresses.

Children become knowledgeable about the different reasons in which writers are *moved* to write: to teach, persuade or influence, entertain, paint with words, reflect and to make a record. Over time, they become increasingly knowledgeable about the different ways in which these reasons can be realised, including through rich interconnection and subversion.

Teach



Teach others by sharing their experience and knowledge, or to teach themselves by writing to learn.

Persuade Or Influence



Persuade or influence others by sharing their thoughts and opinions.

Entertain



Entertain themselves or others by sharing stories - both real and imagined.

Paint With Words



Paint with words to show their artistry and their ability to see things differently, or to simply play around and have fun.

Reflect



Reflect in order to better understand themselves, their place in the world or their response to a new subject.

Make A Record



Make A Record of something to look back on that they don’t want to forget.

Taken from Real-World Writers (Young & Ferguson [2020](#))

Children become increasingly knowledgeable about:

- The variety of ways in which writers can reach and leave an impression on a variety of audiences through writing.
- The writing processes writers use and, over time, are given the agency to develop their own preferred writing process so they can write from a position of strength.
- The strategies and techniques writers use to realise their writing intentions.
- How grammar functions within the craft of writing. Through authentic use, children become knowledgeable about grammatical and linguistic terms.
- The importance writers place on word choice and on increasing their vocabulary. This includes seeking synonyms for words when it feels appropriate.
- How writers use punctuation and other conventions to aid their audience’s ability to read their writing easily and as they intended.

- How writers proofread their writing effectively and so correct unsure spellings before a piece of writing goes to publication.
- Automaticity and legibility in handwriting and its importance in relation to future readers accessing their texts.
- The need for a writer's writing products to be visually stimulating, accurate and of the highest quality.
- Children learn typical spelling patterns and how words are constructed. They also become knowledgeable about different techniques for learning spellings.

How our children's writing skills progress.

- Over time, children learn how to work within, and contribute to, a community of writers.
- Children become increasingly skilful in keeping a writer's notebook and living the writer's life at home and at school.
- As their knowledge surrounding the purposes of writing increases, so does their skill in combining, manipulating and subverting them.
- Children become more self-regulating, skilful and adaptable in their use of the different writing processes, including how they plan, draft, revise, edit, publish and perform their writing intentions.
- Children are able to apply more writerly techniques and become skilful in discerning which will be most appropriately applied.
- Children's ability and skill to proofread, use a dictionary, and use other spell-checking devices increases over time. This means fewer errors find their way through to publication.
- Children's ability to use a thesaurus skilfully increases over time.
- Children's ability to use a variety of writing materials and word processing technology increases over time.

How we are preparing children for life after school and how we are trying to tackle social disadvantage.

- Children learn about the different ways in which we are *moved* to write and by developing as writers, they can fully engage with society in a variety of ways.
- Through class writing projects, they learn how to share their knowledge, opinion, imaginative creativity and artistry. They also learn how to influence and to be persuasive, because you either learn to write your own thoughts or opinions, or else are subjected to someone else's.
- Through class writing projects, we ensure children can discuss, debate, independently research and explore their own ideas, develop their own writing projects and have an independent response, through writing, to material and subjects taught. They are also able to entertain a variety of audiences through stories and personal anecdote.
- Children are keen and utterly able to write in personal response to what they are reading. They learn how to ensure their writing is technically accurate before it reaches publication. This ensures their writing makes the best impression and is taken seriously.
- We decrease the risk of school failure which results from a pupil's inability to share their knowledge and to 'write to learn'.

- We appreciate that business leaders, the job market and academic disciplines require strong writers and so we develop them.

How our writing teaching reflects and honours our local community.

- Children undertake class writing projects which encourage them to be spirited citizens and to play an active role in the public life of their local community and beyond.
- By learning to write together on a variety of subjects which are important to them, children learn about each other's thoughts, cultures, values, knowledge and feelings and have a respect for each other's individual liberty and tolerance of alternative points of view. As developing writers, they also learn about the vast amount they have in common.
- By building class publishing houses and a community of writers within their class each year, children create an inclusive environment which supports the development of unique writing voices.

How learning to be writers gives our children cultural capital.

- We argue that, by teaching children to become life-long independent motivated writers, we are providing them with the most powerful cultural capital you can have – an ability to turn your voice (your thoughts, knowledge, opinions, artistry) into powerful writing.
- By writing within a community of writers, children find that they can learn from others' cultural capital.
- We teach children how writing can be a powerful tool for understanding new knowledge and how you can reorganise it and have a personal response to it.

Implementation for Writing

How our teaching of writing supports children's learning of the writing curriculum.

Our teaching of writing supports children's learning of the writing curriculum because we have carefully considered the research which informed the construction of the writing curriculum (DfE 2012). For example, we teach children about:

- How to be part of a community of writers.
- The different reasons writers are *moved* to write.
- The writing processes.
- Setting distant, process and product writing goals.
- Having inquiry skills.
- The importance of writing momentum and practising the craft of writing every day.
- How grammar functions within the craft of writing.

How we ensure children understand what and why they are writing.

We ensure that children know *what* and *why* they are writing by:

- Making explicit the purpose and future audience for the class writing project and where their writing will end up.
- Allowing children to choose what they want to write about within the parameters of a class writing project.
- Teaching them about why certain genres exist before inviting them to use the genres for themselves in class writing projects.
- Reading and discussing the sorts of writing they are being invited to produce for themselves.
- Teaching children that writing is a craft which is developed through repeated practice.

How we encourage children to engage in developing as writers.

- By ensuring teachers get to know the children in their class. This is achieved by allowing children to write about their own lives, thoughts, opinions, knowledge and imaginative ideas.
- By focusing on the affective needs of effective practice, namely: self-efficacy, agency, motivation, volition, writer-identity, self-regulation and writing for enjoyment, satisfaction and pleasure.

How does developing as a writer impact positively on children's personal development?

- To truly develop a child's writer-identity is to develop their whole identity and therefore contributes to their personal development in the most profound way.
- We ensure children leave our school with a craft which can help promote positive well-being and self-esteem.

- Because children learn to develop their own writing process, they develop a writer-identity. This gives them confidence and knowledge of themselves as writers.
- Because our class writing projects are purposeful, involve a future audience, and children have agency over the subject for their writing, children have motivation for wanting their writing to be the best it can be.
- Because children build a community of writers through our writing approach, they learn how to reflect wisely, behave with integrity and cooperate consistently with their fellow writers.
- Because children are encouraged to write in personal response to subjects and to use their knowledge, opinions, thoughts and own imaginings in their writing, they learn how being a writer gives them an ability to reflect and to represent their thoughts and ideas creatively.
- Because children are given ample time in which to pursue their personal writing projects, they are actively encouraged to develop themselves through writing by definition. They learn that writing can be a pleasurable and recreational activity and a life-long pursuit. They are encouraged to bring their writing to and from home and school.
- They learn how writing can show their artistry, ability to see things differently, and about the enjoyment in playing and having fun with words.

How is children’s development as writers connected to other parts of the curriculum?

- Children learn that by writing about their reading in reading lessons, they can deepen their (and others) comprehension of the text. Children learn that by reading in writing lessons, they can deepen their craft knowledge.
- Because children become increasingly knowledgeable about the ways in which writers are *moved* to write, they are able to write in personal response to what they learn in other areas of the curriculum and to share this with other members of the class. This helps them and their peers have a deeper understanding of other parts of the curriculum as a result.
- Children learn some of the discipline-specific genres involved in other parts of the curriculum. For example, writing people’s history, historical recounts and accounts, biography and scientific reports.

How are children with SEND supported in developing as writers?

Children with SEND are supported in the following ways:

- They start with a simplified writing process of planning, drafting and publishing. Publishing is undertaken by an adult helper on the child’s behalf if requested.
- They are encouraged to plan using storytelling, drawing, talk and picture book making.
- They are encouraged to make picture books which try to match the quality of the commercial picture books found in the classroom and school libraries.
- Over time, they are moved towards conventional planning, dabbling, revising and basic editing.
- They regularly write alongside an adult who is also writing.
- They receive a greater frequency of pupil-conferencing.

- They set themselves regular personal writing targets.

How are your advanced and highly experienced writers supported?

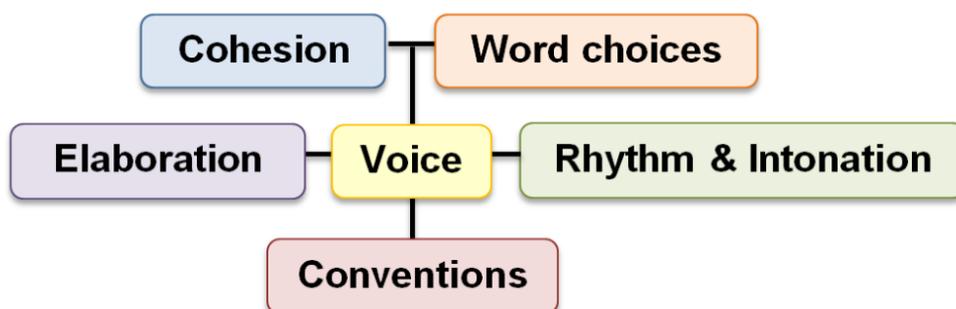
Advanced writers are supported in the following ways:

- They are encouraged to write and learn from one another.
- They are encouraged to work on their compositions both at home and at school.
- They have freedom over their writing process and the strategies they employ.
- They are encouraged to collect words, sentences / poetic moments, themes, try out types of openings and types of endings, metaphors, characters as metaphors, collect / discuss psychological / philosophical ideas as plots / characters / settings for narrative writing.
- Read for pleasure a wide variety of texts including those which present a challenge.
- To develop their narrative writing beyond the norm and take on advanced writerly techniques.

This is what we believe our teachers need expert subject knowledge in.

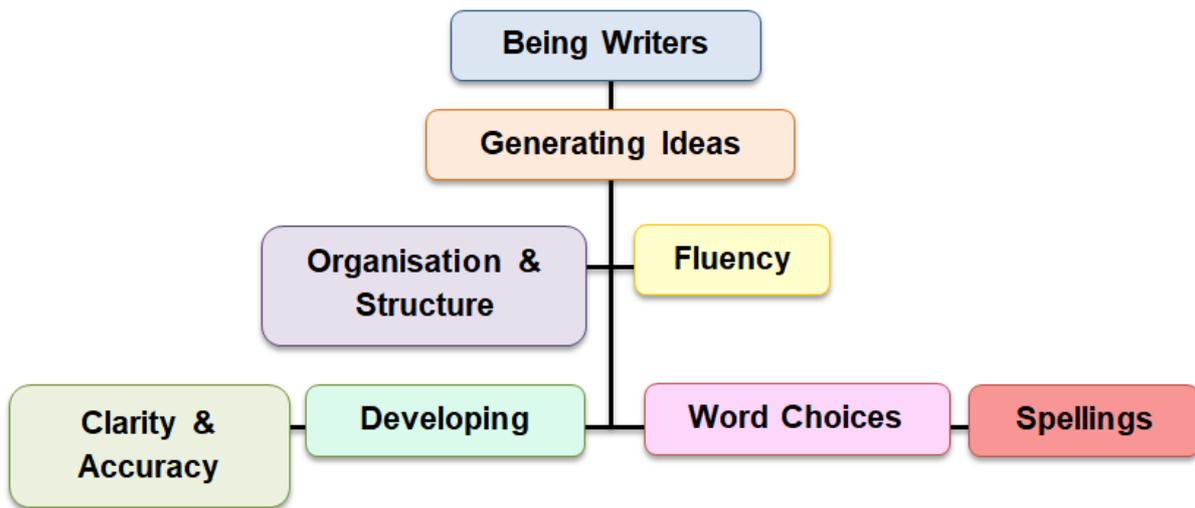
Teachers must have expert knowledge in the following:

- The reasons writers are *moved* to write.
- The typical genres used by writers to realise this need to write.
- The typical content, topics, attention to audience, ways of presenting, and linguistic, literary and grammatical features employed in these genres.
- That genres are subject to change, are often interconnected and often realise more than one purpose.
- That the writing processes are recursive and that writers develop their own preferred process over time. Teachers should also be knowledgeable of their own writing process. They should know the many strategies and techniques employed at different stages of the writing process and teach them explicitly.
- They should be able to expertly identify certain grammatical, linguistic and literary features employed by children in their compositions.



The aspects of grammar teachers should be able to identify and teach.

- They should be knowledgeable about the strategies and techniques involved in developing children’s writing in the eight key craft areas.



The eight key craft areas teachers need to know

This is our school’s pedagogical knowledge for teaching apprentice writers.

Our pedagogical knowledge is based on extensive scientific research into the most effective writing instruction, case studies of what the best performing teachers of writing do that makes the difference, our own school action research and the wisdom of professional writers. We therefore understand that the effective teaching of writing involves the application of the following principles:

- The 14 principles of world-class writing teaching**
1. Build a community of writers.
 2. Ensure every child is a writer.
 3. Read, share, think and talk about writing.
 4. Plan purposeful and authentic class writing projects.
 5. Teach the writing processes
 6. Set writing goals
 7. Be reassuringly consistent. This involves following a regular routine of self-regulation strategy instruction, writing time and class sharing.
 8. Provide time for personal writing projects.
 9. Balance the teaching of composition and transcription.
 10. Teach daily mini-lessons
 11. Be writer-teachers.
 12. Give high-quality feedback through pupil conferencing and through responsive mini-lessons.
 13. Connect reading and writing.
 14. Continually review how we can better interconnect these principles.

This is how teachers check pupils' understanding and set future writing goals with them.

Teachers check pupils' understanding and set future writing goals by:

- Ensuring children know what the publishing goal for the class writing project is, namely, what the purpose and future audience for the project is.
- Establishing product goals for the project through whole-class reading and in-depth textual-analysis.
- Arranging systematic pupil feedback in their classrooms and collaboratively setting future writing goals with the children.
- Teaching responsive mini-lessons which reflect what the class needs more instruction in.
- Ensuring that the writing processes are on display and that there is a clear process goal to achieve during writing time.
- Assessing children's developing writing portfolios and making decisions about what needs to be taught next.

This is how we ensure key knowledge and skills about being a writer become part of children's long-term memory.

Because of our commitment to a reassuringly consistent writing approach, children repeatedly practise the craft of writing, are repeatedly moved to write in a variety of common genres, and because these genres are repeated and built upon throughout the years, children begin to place this knowledge into their long-term memory. Children become experts in the writing processes as they move through the school and once experienced enough, are encouraged to develop their own preferred writing process. Because children work through the writing processes repeatedly, and are taught self-regulated writing strategies, they undertake their writing effectively, efficiently and largely independently.

Impact of Writing

What the children can show for themselves at the end of their time with us.

- Children will have their own writing portfolios which contain all the published pieces from their writing projects each year, as well as writing in their books to demonstrate how their writing has improved throughout their time at our school.
- Children will have their own established writing process, strategies and routines for producing successful, meaningful and accurate writing.
- Children will want to write for personal reasons – as an act of reflection or record keeping. We want them to know how to write for reasons of pure pleasure and recreation – feeling a sense of joy and accomplishment in sharing their artistry, identity and knowledge with others in ways that are profound and confident.
- Children will have a record of assessment demonstrating progress towards their year groups objectives, always working towards achieving at least the expected standard at the end of each Key Stage.

What do our children say about writing at Lowerplace?

We asked the children:

When your teacher says 'we are going to write today,' what goes through your mind?

They said:

"Yay because it's one of my favourite lessons"

"I love writing. Yes, I love writing"

"OMG, I love writing"

"Yay because I love writing stories and reading stories"

"I feel happy and excited"