

Middleton Parish Church School Curriculum Statement: Writing

Excellence, Truth & Grace'

'Summing it all up, friends, I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious - the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; strive for excellence, things to praise, not things to curse.' **Philippians 4:8**

Curriculum Intent

At Middleton Parish Church School, we believe that writing is a key skill for life both inside and outside of education and that is why it features across all the subjects taught across our school. Our aim is to provide children with key transferrable writing skills to build on year on year, that can be used throughout each phase of their education and prepare them for secondary school. Handwriting is taught in discrete lessons; pre-cursive (Year 1); Cursive (Years 2 – 6) with the aim of developing a fluid style of writing that demonstrates the correct placement of letters and is neat and well-presented. We teach children to write in a range of genres, as outlined in the National Curriculum, by using a wide range of high quality WAGOLs (**W**hat a **G**ood **O**ne **L**ooks **L**ike) as models for children's own writing.

Middleton Parish Church School's children will be:

- **Ready to Learn:** Our curriculum encourages children to write by making the 'rules' of writing explicit. High quality and engaging texts are used as exemplar pieces which can be deconstructed so that the features, grammatical elements, vocabulary and structure of the text provide a framework for children's independently produced writing. Our curriculum empowers children to be independent, resilient and to develop a growth mind set by providing a clear framework of support throughout the writing process.
- **Respectful:** Children are taught to have an understanding, and be respectful of, a variety of different cultures, environments and perspectives by utilising a range of inclusive, exemplar texts. Through writing, children engage in the culture that they live in whilst also understanding and respecting the cultures of others. Children are taught to be respectful of the opinions of others by being empathic when writing from the perspective of a character or when addressing an issue.
- **Reflective:** Children are taught how to write by engaging with a range of texts encountered throughout the curriculum, as well as, through reading lessons, their own personal reading and the Class novel. Active reading supports the process of deconstructing a text by asking questions about the author's intent, use of language and an examination of grammatical features. Examples are shared and noted on working walls, so that children can make connections between what has been read and what will be written. They will reflect on questions asked by themselves, their peers and teaching staff in order to expand their understanding and knowledge. Children are also encouraged to reflect on what has been written in order to broaden their understanding of what constitutes effective writing and in order to develop their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- **Aspirational:** Human experience is the foundation of all that is read and written so children are inspired to have a positive impact in their life and that of the Parish community by gaining a deeper understanding of issues that are reflected and covered in English. Writing is a key element of all other areas of the curriculum, so children utilise what is learnt within writing to support written work across the curriculum.

Curriculum Implementation: We offer clear progression in all strands of the writing National Curriculum and in the range of genres are covered. Across both key stages, children write with a clear purpose and focus on the audience.

Exposure: Each unit of work begins with the children being exposed to a new genre through the use of a well-written WAGOLL. Children are supported in deconstructing the text in order to identify both the layout and language features. Children create a success criteria from this that they can use as a point of reference throughout the unit of work. **New Teaching/Consolidation of previous teaching:** Children are asked to recall what has been previously learnt when studying this genre and new learning is given.

Plan: Children use what is already known and what has been taught to plan their own piece of writing. They will use graphic organisers to structure their work.

Draft: Children use what has been learnt to draft their own piece of writing. Younger children will require more support with this, such as saying their sentences orally before writing them down. **Edit & Redraft:** Children are encouraged to read and evaluate their written piece in order to consider how it may be improved. Children will be supported through this by the use of agreed criteria, assessment of written pieces, peer and self-assessment. Children will use purple pens to evidence this part of the writing process.

Middleton Parish Church School's children will be:

- **Ready to Learn:** Our clear steps of progression ensure all children are ready to learn and build on their prior knowledge. At the start of each lesson, children will review previous learning so they can build on this and are ready to learn new skills.
- **Respectful:** Writing promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. At Middleton Parish we reinforce these values regularly throughout the writing curriculum. Our children have respect for democracy and ensure everyone feels comfortable expressing their ideas and opinions through class discussions.
- **Reflective:** Children will reflect on their learning in order to understand the progress they have made
- **Aspirational:** Our writing curriculum inspires pupils to ask questions about the impact of what they have read and written. They are encouraged to think about how they can utilise what has been learnt in order to develop not only as a writer, but also as a person. Children will be able to make links between what they have learnt in class, and their personal experiences in the wider community.

Curriculum Impact

All children will acquire and use vocabulary accurately in their writing. Children will become competent writers in a range of genres. The process of writing will support the acquisition of new knowledge and skills across the curriculum, as well as enabling children to make relevant links to, and utilise, the learning in other curriculum subjects. They will improve their enquiry skills and inquisitiveness about the world around them, and their impact on the world. All children will realise that they have choices to make in the world, developing a positive commitment to the role that they play in society. All children in the school will be able to speak confidently about the skills and knowledge needed to write effectively and with confidence.

Middleton Parish Church School's children will be:

- **Ready to learn:** Children have confidence in what they have learnt and speak positively about writing. Children can confidently make links between writing and other curriculum areas and can apply this to new learning.
- **Respectful:** Children have a respect and a good understanding of different cultures, faiths and opinions.
- **Reflective:** Children are able to reflect on what they have learnt, ask questions and make links to a variety of subjects and situations.
- **Aspirational:** Children are able to demonstrate an understanding that writing is an expression of the human experience as well as being a fundamental life skill that is required in everyday life. Children will leave Middleton Parish with resilience and high expectations of themselves.