

SINAI JEWISH PRIMARY SCHOOL
'Big School, Big Heart, Big Opportunities'

WRITING CURRICULUM

INTENT

Our aim is to cultivate fluent, passionate writers who possess a profound understanding of the English language. By immersing our students in the rich, imaginative world of high-quality texts, we aim to foster an enduring love for writing. Our curriculum is designed to enable students to become enthusiastic, expressive writers and confident speakers, equipped with a diverse vocabulary and the ability to choose words with precision and impact. We strive to expand our children's perspectives, enhance their worldly knowledge and nurture their capacity for embracing diversity through every reading and writing opportunity.

IMPLEMENTATION

Our writing curriculum is meticulously implemented through a blend of immersive reading experiences and comprehensive writing lessons that span across all year groups. Starting with EYFS and Year 1, we use Talk+Writing to introduce basic genre structures and narrative skills through imitation, innovation, and independent practice, preparing students for more advanced writing. This foundation supports structured writing lessons, SPaG sessions, and handwriting practice in later years, using resources like Nelson for a solid writing mechanics foundation. Key Stage 1 focuses on sentence structure, leading to more complex tasks ahead. From Year 2 to Year 6, we follow a two-week, six-lesson cycle for each writing genre, incorporating genre features, SPaG, interactive build-up activities, planning, writing, and editing. This cycle ensures deep genre immersion and skilful writing construction and refinement. Writing lessons link to class texts and topics for cross-curricular relevance, with teachers modelling writing in various contexts. This comprehensive approach aims to develop proficient writers through practice and revision across genres.

IMPACT

Sinai children emerge as expressive, precise writers. Through our rigorous curriculum and continuous reflective practice, our pupils demonstrate remarkable progress in their ability to articulate ideas confidently and creatively. They become adept at crafting their unique writing styles, reflecting on their own and others' writing with an understanding of its real-world purpose. Our students are equipped for lifelong learning, embodying our vision of nurturing the next generation of writers, thinkers, and change-makers. Their engagement with a diverse array of texts and participation in writing across the curriculum broadens their horizons, enriches their vocabulary and prepares them to communicate effectively and confidently in a wide variety of contexts.

BIG OPPORTUNITIES

Our writing curriculum is designed to spark creativity and a passion for writing, going beyond traditional classroom activities to offer a rich tapestry of experiences. By integrating writing across various subjects, we provide a cohesive and immersive learning journey. Highlights include workshops with renowned authors and Virtual Reality (VR) experiences, like Year 3's virtual exploration of an Egyptian tomb, which bring lessons to life and inspire creative narratives. We also enrich our curriculum with opportunities for students to engage in real-world writing and performance. Children contribute to our school newspaper, applying their writing skills in a practical context that reaches beyond the classroom walls. Additionally, we host a wizard drama theatre, offering students a platform to explore storytelling through drama and performance. Class assemblies further allow students to showcase their writing and oracy skills, performing in front of an audience to build confidence and public speaking abilities. Diversity is a cornerstone of our curriculum, with a selection of texts that span various genres, cultures, and perspectives, ensuring students are exposed to a wide range of voices. This exposure, coupled with experiences like listening to famous speeches, provides a rich stimulus for their writing. Through these varied and immersive experiences, including contributions to the school newspaper, participation in drama, and class assemblies, we aim to cultivate skilled, thoughtful, and creative writers ready to express themselves in any context.

KEY CONCEPTS, KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

Key Concepts: Experiences, Vocabulary, Creativity, Oracy and Purpose

Our writing curriculum is grounded in key concepts that nurture knowledge and skills essential for effective communication. Through 'Experiences,' we immerse students in a variety of contexts, enabling them to draw inspiration from real-world interactions and literature, enhancing their understanding and engagement with different writing styles. 'Vocabulary' development is central, equipping students with the words they need to express their ideas clearly and vividly. We foster 'Creativity' by encouraging original thought and innovative expression, allowing students to explore and develop their unique voice. 'Oracy' emphasizes the importance of spoken language as a foundation for writing, supporting students in organizing their thoughts and articulating them confidently. 'Purpose' ensures students grasp the intent behind different texts, guiding them to tailor their writing to suit specific audiences and objectives.

ASSESSMENT

In our school, writing assessment is a systematic process tied closely to our curriculum. After each long write—every three weeks in Year 1 and bi-weekly in Year 2 and KS2—teachers assess these pieces using checklists aligned with year group expectations to support accurate termly judgements. At the end of each term, writing moderation sessions involve teachers and a member of the Senior Leadership Team reviewing fiction and non-fiction works to evaluate if students meet, exceed or are below age-related expectations, ensuring consistent and fair assessment across the board. This moderation, essential for maintaining high writing standards, occurs termly and bi-weekly within year groups. Assessments are recorded on Arbor, with data analysed termly to determine students' performance levels: age-related, above, working towards, or below. This streamlined approach enables targeted support and ensures all students' writing skills are accurately evaluated and nurtured.