

# St John the Evangelist Catholic Primary

## Writing



### Curriculum Intent

English sits at the heart of our curriculum – it is through language, story and text that children learn to form concepts, connect ideas and express themselves. Through literacy, in all its forms, children learn to both make sense of the world and shape their place within it.

At St. John the Evangelist, we believe that language and literacy is fundamental to the overall development of children and endeavour to deliver an exciting and innovative curriculum, empowering their written and oral communication and creativity. By experiencing rich and challenging texts, we aim to give pupils a love of reading that continues long after they have left us. The experiences they encounter are fun and thought-provoking leaving them with great memories and confidence. We strive to allow our pupils to be independent learners who are responsible for shaping their own learning.

### Implementation

At St. John the Evangelist, we follow the National Curriculum for English and teaching supports the recommendations identified in the EEF's 'Improving Literacy' recommendations at both **KS1 & KS2**. In all year groups at St. John the Evangelist, we teach writing through high-quality texts – ranging from picture books to Shakespeare, artefacts, film clips and immersive real-life experiences. Over their time at the school, children will write a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts, including recounts, news reports, explanation texts, poems, plays and stories of all kinds. We use drama, role-play, storytelling, debate and discussion to engage the imagination, before moving on to vocabulary exploration, sentence craft and creative writing.

Throughout the Early Years and Key Stage 1, children are taught the key principles of writing in order to lay a solid foundation for developing their skills later on. An emphasis is placed on developing clear handwriting with 'finger spaces' between in each word. Children are taught to apply their knowledge of phonics to help them spell accurately, and to structure their work, whether it be fiction writing or a set of instructions. Our curriculum teaches the children to add variation and description to their work by developing their vocabulary, including the use of interesting adjectives, adverbs, as well as developing sentence structure by using conjunctions and sentence openers. By the end of Key Stage 1,

children have been taught the fundamentals of punctuation and grammar. This structural and technical knowledge is fostered alongside developing a love for writing as a lifelong means for communication and expressing oneself.

Writing outcomes are developed across a 1-week unit. Teachers use high quality texts (based on Doug Lemov's - Five Plagues of Reading).

Children begin a writing unit by identifying the features of the genre to be studied; developing their knowledge of the appropriate grammar; and extending their range of vocabulary. This knowledge is then woven into their shared writing where the teacher uplevels their writing ideas into one class version of the genre. Next, children are guided to produce their own piece of writing following the structure as modelled by staff. These activities really build their confidence with the genre and enable children to see themselves as writers. Finally, children use all of their learning to produce an independent piece of writing of the chosen genre.

A writing 'working wall' is visible and used in all classes. It consists of the titles; WAGOLL (What A Good One Looks Like), Vocabulary, Shared Writing, Grammar and Spelling. This wall is interactive and continually added to throughout the English teaching cycle and it is used as a learning tool by the children.

The National Curriculum spelling statutory requirements are taught using published spelling schemes to ensure consistency across the school (Y1-Y6). Meanwhile, in EY, spellings are linked to the phonics being taught.

At St. John the Evangelist, we have high standards of presentation in all books across the curriculum. Children are taught using the Charles Cripps Handwriting for Spelling approach which encourages children from Year 1 to join when writing. When a child is deemed to have legible, joined handwriting they are awarded a pen licence to celebrate their achievements.

## **Impact**

The impact on our children is clear: progress, sustained learning, transferrable skills and above all, enjoyment.

With the implementation of the writing journey being well-established and taught thoroughly in both Key Stages, children are becoming more confident writers and as they reach Key Stage 2, most genres of writing are familiar to them. The teaching can then focus on creativity, writer's craft, sustained writing and manipulation of grammar and punctuation skills.

As all aspects of English are an integral part of the curriculum, skills taught in the English lesson are transferred into other subjects: this shows consolidation of skills and a deeper understanding of how and when to use specific grammar and punctuation.