

Year 3 & 4 Meeting - Writing in the new English curriculum

The new English curriculum has prompted Primary schools to review how we teach writing. We aim to improve the confidence of some of our writers who prefer to write nothing rather than 'get it wrong'. We want all children to see themselves as writers with stories to tell.

'Learning to write is partly about instruction, but progress is also made through regular practice, experiment and reflection'. Simon Wrigley, National Writing Project.

The children allow this to happen the children will be given the opportunity to –

- Plan
- Draft
- Evaluate
- Edit
- Proof read
- Present

We start with ideas or pictures or stories or experiences and try to avoid too much teacher talk, calling on the use of 'Talk Partners' a system that is well embedded from reception throughout the school.

Next we model 'having a go'; usually with the teacher scribing the children's ideas. We change words, improve punctuation, cross out and adapt. This benefits the children more than seeing a perfect finished piece that can seem unachievable to some writers.

We aim to give the children stimulating and purposeful challenges for their writing – offering plenty of scope for the children to become 'fired up'. With the creative curriculum links to our topics inspire their work.

We allow the children to choose the way their writing will go, rather than insisting on a specific outcome. We try to let the children have a sustained uninterrupted go.

We allow the children to use their 'Talk partners' to listen to their writing, the children feed back to their peers very effectively. Then we talk to the children about their writing, firstly about the content and ideas, letting them know what we like, it's only after this has happened that we ask the children what they have already edited and how they think they might be able to improve their work.

Often the children will share their work with the class or in an Assembly once they are happy and proud of their achievements.

There has been an increased emphasis on accuracy in punctuation, spelling and grammar in the New Curriculum. These key elements are taught both separate to, and within, literacy lessons so children can apply their knowledge to their writing effectively.

A summary of the expectations for each year group is attached. Information about a helpful guide to support any parent / carer who is less familiar with any of these aspects of spelling, punctuation and grammar (known by schools as 'SPAG') is also attached.