



Grange Primary School

English:

Writing

Intent

Writing is a crucial part of our curriculum at Grange Primary School and aims to lay a foundation for success across all curriculum areas. Through our diverse writing curriculum, we hope to develop in children a broad vocabulary, a keen imagination and the confidence to express their thoughts and ideas clearly and creatively in a range of writing genres.

Our goal at Grange Primary is to foster a love of writing from an early age by providing engaging and developmentally appropriate opportunities for children to explore and express their ideas through various modes of writing such as drawing, mark making and emergent writing from Nursery. We strive to create a safe and supportive environment where children build their confidence and skills as writers, whilst also learning to appreciate the power of the written language as they move through their school years.

We strive to have a curriculum which is reflective of the diversity of our community and the wider world, in which all children feel seen and valued. By the end of Key Stage 2, we aim to equip our children with essential skills of spelling, punctuation and grammar, which are key to success in secondary school and beyond. We place a huge emphasis on editing and improving writing, with the aim of developing reflective and ambitious writers who have the skills to unlock their own potential.

Above all, we hope all children leave us with a love of writing and pride in the skills they have acquired.

Implementation

At Grange Primary School, we believe that writing is an integral part of a child's development and a critical skill that should be nurtured and developed from an early age. Children in the Early Years begin 'writing' through opportunities provided to them within their provision. They are encouraged to engage in various forms of 'writing' from initial mark making, to drawing, writing strings of letters to begin to form words, captions or sentences, while considering each child's developmental level and individual needs. We focus on creating a supportive environment that encourages children to experiment with language and express their ideas in their own unique ways. Our approach in the Early Years, emphasises the importance of play and exploration in the writing process and we strive to create and promote a fun, engaging and relative experience that fosters a lifelong love of writing. Children in reception are also provided formal writing lessons in small groups based on the topic they are learning about. Children are then encouraged to access this throughout their play independently, making use of the explicitly taught skills.

Beginning in the Early Years, we adopt a book-based approach in the delivery of our writing curriculum at Grange Primary as well as a cross-curricular approach, with a particular focus on our History and Geography curriculum, allowing children to explore different writing styles and genres for a range of purposes and audiences. We place great emphasis on the use of drama and talk for writing to unlock potential in writing: children deepen their understanding of characters' perspectives, explore historical contexts and orally rehearse their writing before putting pen to paper.

In this way, children engage in writing tasks that are specific and meaningful and gain an understanding of how writing skills can be applied to real life contexts. Literacy and cross-curricular displays around the school demonstrate the learning journey of each class and celebrate the excellent writing the children have produced.

Spelling and grammar are taught rigorously across both key stages. Children have weekly discrete spelling and grammar lessons linked to their literacy text, have spellings set in weekly homework and

practise applying these skills in writing lessons. Correct letter formation is taught from reception and children progress to cursive script towards the end of Key Stage 1. Teachers model this handwriting during lessons and the cursive script is visible to children in displays around the school. Children who need additional support in spelling or handwriting are targeted in interventions that are tailored to address their specific gaps.

Vocabulary is central to our writing curriculum and this is supported by our focus on an integrated reading and writing approach. High-quality texts are used as a basis for writing tasks and are studied in greater depth during reading lessons, this allows children to immerse themselves completely in a given writing style or genre.

Editing is a priority for improving writing across the school and we have developed a system of self and peer-editing, which allows children to support each other in their writing journey. In order for children to make improvements in their writing, they need a thorough knowledge of their targets, which are set through ongoing teacher assessment and are shared with children through verbal feedback and meaningful academic guidance via marking. Children are actively involved in this process through regular conferencing with teachers and teaching assistants.

Impact

Impact is measured through daily formative assessment that informs weekly planning and summative termly writing assessments. Teachers upload this assessment data onto the whole school tracking system and monitor progress towards National Curriculum objectives as well as the progress of targeted intervention groups. Termly moderation meetings are held in school and teachers also attend cluster moderations so that writing judgements can be aligned with other schools in the borough and targets for improvement are identified. Throughout the term, the Senior Leadership Team carry out learning walks, observations, book looks and pupil progress meetings in order to monitor the quality of teaching and learning across the school. The outcome of these reviews is reflected in actions set out in teachers' appraisals, the English Action Plan and as whole school targets shared with staff.

End of Key Stage 2 data shows that pupils leave Grange having made good or better progress from their starting points. They are able to write clearly and accurately and adapt their language and style for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences. They acquire a rich vocabulary and have a strong command of the written word. It is clear that children leave Grange with a love of writing and high expectations of their own abilities.