



St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School

Writing Rationale



Intent

At St Cuthbert's, we believe that writing is a powerful means of communication, creativity and self-expression. We are committed to developing confident, skilled and ambitious writers who can communicate effectively for a range of audiences and purposes across the curriculum and beyond. Through a language-rich English curriculum, we inspire children to develop a love of writing and take pride in the quality of their work.

We recognise that successful writing begins with secure speaking, listening and reading. Therefore, from the Early Years onwards, we place a strong emphasis on developing children's vocabulary, oracy and understanding of high-quality texts. We believe that children who speak confidently, read widely and develop a rich vocabulary become more successful writers. Our carefully sequenced writing curriculum enables children to build upon prior learning, developing increasing control over transcription, composition and the craft of writing as they progress through school.

We want every child to understand that writing has a real purpose and the power to inform, entertain, persuade and inspire. Through exposure to high-quality literature and meaningful writing opportunities, children learn to write imaginatively, accurately and with increasing independence. Our aim is that every child leaves our school as a confident writer who can communicate ideas clearly, adapt their writing for different audiences and purposes, and apply their skills successfully across the wider curriculum and in later life.

Implementation

Writing begins in the Early Years, where children develop the foundations for successful writing through Communication and Language, mark-making, physical development and early composition. Rich opportunities for purposeful mark-making, storytelling and talk are provided throughout both the indoor and outdoor learning environments.

From Reception to Year 6, our writing curriculum follows a carefully planned sequence based around high-quality, vocabulary-rich texts. Children are immersed in quality literature before analysing the language, structure and features of expert writers. Through this text-based approach, children develop a secure understanding of a wide range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry while building the knowledge and skills needed to write effectively for different audiences and purposes.

Writing is taught through a progressive sequence of planning, writing, editing. Teachers explicitly model the writing process, enabling children to develop confidence in selecting ambitious vocabulary, applying grammatical knowledge and refining their writing. Oracy is embedded throughout this process, allowing children to rehearse ideas orally, discuss language choices, justify decisions and receive constructive feedback before and during writing.

Transcription skills, including handwriting, spelling, grammar and punctuation, are taught explicitly and practised regularly to develop automaticity, enabling children to focus increasingly on the composition and quality of their writing. In the Early Years, children develop the foundations of handwriting through fine motor development, pencil control and accurate letter formation. As children progress through school, they are taught a joined cursive handwriting style, enabling them to write fluently, efficiently and with pride in the presentation of their work.

In Love with Christ: Be the Best I can. Be Kind to One Another. Amen.



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Children are given frequent opportunities to apply their writing across the wider curriculum in meaningful contexts. They write to inform, explain, persuade, entertain and reflect, recognising that writing is an essential tool for learning in every subject. Teachers use ongoing formative assessment to identify next steps, adapt teaching and provide precise feedback that enables children to improve their writing. High expectations, appropriate challenge and targeted support ensure all pupils make strong progress from their individual starting points.

Writing is celebrated throughout the school through displays, published work and wider curriculum opportunities, encouraging children to see themselves as successful writers and to value writing as an important lifelong skill.

Impact

Through our writing curriculum, children develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to write accurately, effectively and creatively across a wide range of contexts.

Our children:

- write confidently and independently for a range of audiences and purposes;
- develop fluent, legible handwriting alongside secure spelling, grammar and punctuation, enabling them to write accurately and efficiently;
- draw upon a rich and increasingly ambitious vocabulary to communicate meaning effectively;
- plan, and edit their writing thoughtfully, improving both the accuracy and quality of their work;
- apply their writing skills confidently across the wider curriculum, making purposeful links between subjects;
- leave our school as resilient, reflective and enthusiastic writers who understand the power of writing to communicate, influence and inspire.

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