



WRITING OFFER

'Every child is a writer'

'You can make anything by writing.' – C.S. Lewis

'If you want to be a writer, you must do two things above all others; read a lot and write a lot.'
– Stephen King

Intent

At Sedgeberrow CE First School we believe that every child is a writer and should be given a plethora of opportunities to write across the curriculum starting from Reception where we encourage an 'I can' attitude as the children develop motor skills and are encouraged to willingly pick up a pencil to mark make as a form of early writing. As the children progress through the school, the 'I can' attitude continues as we plan exciting English lessons based on quality texts which engage children and facilitate the learning of word and sentence level skills including grammar, spelling and punctuation – what we like to refer to as the 'nuts and bolts' of writing. These 'nuts and bolts' of writing are of utmost importance in constructing effective, coherent and meaningful sentences and are consequently fundamental in building different text types so that children write with grammatical accuracy, correct punctuation and are competent spellers. However, the staff at Sedgeberrow First School also believe that creativity is a big driver in quality writing. We teach the children that the written word is a powerful tool for communicating and creating. This is why reading is, of course, the foundation stone for writing and this is why we value reading so highly because through great literature we can take children on adventures, travel to new worlds, meet interesting characters and experience real-life issues all in the safety of the story world. The power of reading can inspire children to create their own stories, using their imagination to write their own narratives, poems and non-fictional texts. Giving children plenty of opportunities to read and write allows them to hone their writing skills and we aim to promote an ethos whereby each child 'can' write but will also develop a stamina for writing, which includes the desire to achieve their best by drafting, editing and improving what they have written.

At Sedgeberrow First School we intend to develop in our children:

- A positive attitude towards writing and an 'I can' philosophy.
- The confidence to work with growing independence.
- The competence to produce a consistently high standard of work, with the majority of children meeting end of year expectations and a proportion writing 'with greater depth'.
- The ability to make at least expected progress each year.
- An awareness of different text types and their potential audience.
- A fluent handwriting style containing correct joins and letter formation by the end of KS2.
- A good grasp of phonics, spelling, vocabulary, grammar and punctuation which will be consistently evident in their writing.



- The ability to edit and improve their writing.
- A flair for writing, where the children use their imagination and the written word to communicate their ideas and create new narratives, poems and texts.

Implementation

In English lessons, children are taught to write a wide range of non-fiction texts, as well as narratives and poetry during their school journey. Throughout the school we use an approach called 'Talk for Writing' which is a nationally recognised method for teaching children to write, developed by former Children's Laureate Pie Corbett. Talk for Writing allows us to immerse children in quality texts and explore these through a range of techniques, building writing toolkits which are consistently taught throughout the school. Talk for Writing equips children with the necessary skills to confidently write with coherence and a wide vocabulary using structures appropriate to each text type. It is a process which follows the notion that if you can't say a sentence, you won't be able to write it. Each text type is introduced and explored, looking at its key features and structures as well as its associated vocabulary. The children then learn the text through recital, pictorial prompts, actions, drama or dictation. Following this, the children are then supported in the creation of their own innovations of a text. In addition, children are given the opportunity to write throughout the wider curriculum, where they can continue to practise and apply their skills.

In order to widen the children's scope of vocabulary and spelling accuracy, we timetable a discrete 20 minute spelling lesson in which they focus on spelling rules and patterns as well as word classes. Through the implementation of a spelling display in each classroom where 'Words of the Week' are visible to everyone, the children are encouraged to refer to these words and apply them in their independent work, where appropriate.

Impact

We plan regular 'Free Write Friday' lessons in which the children are encouraged to apply the skills from English lessons and Talk for Writing. This gives the children the opportunity to write creatively and independently in a variety of contexts and styles, as well as thinking about the implied purpose and audience, allowing the children to showcase all the writing skills they have learnt and practised appropriate to the text type they are composing. We collect samples of the children's independent writing and use this for teacher assessment against the National Curriculum expectations. We regularly moderate children's writing samples within school and with other schools to ensure the consistency of teacher judgements. In Year 2, children's independent writing is assessed as part of the KS1 SATs. Based on this independent writing we can monitor progress, ensuring children are given any additional support where needed and celebrate our writing successes because 'all our children are writers' and deserve acknowledgement of their 'I can' attitude and written achievement.