

Our writing ambition at



At the schools in the Fair Acres Federation, we strive to help our children develop into articulate and imaginative communicators, who are well-equipped with the basic skills they need to become life-long learners; English learning is key in this. We aim to ensure all of our children develop a genuine love of language and the written word, through a text-based approach. To promote confident young writers, we regularly read aloud and share high quality texts across a range of genres, reflecting a range of writing styles. We select texts that are rich in vocabulary, and enable children to comprehend beyond their own reading fluency level. Careful links are made across the curriculum to ensure that children's English learning is relevant and meaningful: where relevant linking our reading, writing and the topic that we are covering in History and Geography. We ensure that children develop an understanding of how widely writing is used in everyday life and, therefore, how important and useful the skills are that they are learning

Our writing curriculum

Our sequenced English curriculum, maps core content in Reading and Writing across the primary journey, ensuring that learning is taught and revisited over time so that pupils commit new learning to their long-term memory.

Our whole curriculum is shaped by our school vision which aims to enable all children, regardless of background, ability, additional needs, and to flourish to become the very best version of themselves they can possibly be. We teach the National Curriculum, supported by a clear knowledge and skills progression document developed by our subject lead (21/22). This ensures that skills and knowledge are built on year by year and sequenced appropriately to maximise learning for all children. No one published 'scheme' fits exactly how we want to teach writing. We use elements of 'Talk for Writing' and Hamilton Trust to best suit the pupils' to compliment our intended progression of knowledge and skills.

We aim to develop children's ability to produce well-structured, detailed writing in which the meaning is made clear and which engages the interest of the audience / reader. Particular attention is paid throughout the school to the formal structures of English: grammatical detail, punctuation and spelling.

Teachers clearly model writing skills and document the learning journey through consistent working walls; guided writing sessions are used to target specific needs of both groups and individuals. Children have opportunities to write at length, in extended, independent writing sessions at the end of a unit of work – applying their taught skills to an unsupported piece of writing.

Throughout the Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, we teach writing through a text-based approach, which allows us to meet the needs of the children that we are teaching – through choosing a text that will engage, inspire and motivate. As well as reading a wide variety of genres, children are given frequent opportunities to develop their skills in writing in different genres. Exploring texts in depth, gives children the opportunity to put their writing skills into practice through two pieces of extended writing per term.

We support writing development no matter the ability of the child and we have various intervention in place to ensure that we address gaps of particular difficulties.

Spelling, punctuation, grammar and handwriting

Pupils are taught discrete punctuation and grammar skills, appropriate to their year group, within our text based approach to planning, allowing opportunities to identify, practice and consolidate grammatical understanding, whilst also being immersed in a text. Children then apply the grammar and punctuation skills that they have learnt in their extended pieces of writing. The teaching of grammar and punctuation is planned and sequential, with opportunities to revisit and build of prior learning.

Active English

We use Active English in years 1 to year 4 to support the development of the grammar aspects of the National Curriculum. Active English is an approach for teaching grammatical understanding to primary-aged pupils. It uses the principles of mnemonics to teach and embed the learning in an active and engaging way, providing the pupils with a deeper grasp of language that will benefit them for life.

Spelling

We believe that our pupils can become fluent readers and writers –we teach through the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised, which is a systematic and synthetic phonics programme. We start teaching phonics in reception and follow 'Little Wandle'. Which ensure that children build on their growing knowledge of the alphabetic code, mastering phonics to read and spell as they move through school.

New 2022/23 Spelling Shed

To support spellings within our school, we have introduced 'The Spelling Shed' as a whole school resource. The Spelling Shed spelling scheme of work gives full coverage of the English national curriculum for years 1-6. The scheme is broken down into weekly objectives, each of which has a word list, a learning activity and a practice sheet.

Handwriting

The teaching of correct letter formation begins in EYFS & is practiced daily in fun & creative ways. Nelson handwriting programme starts in EYFS and is taught across KS1/KS2. closely monitored and modelled by staff across school.

Developing independence and celebrating success

We celebrate star writers and display pupil work when children have achieved success. This work is proudly shared with the class and displayed in the classroom.

Writing success is celebrated through weekly achievement certificates presented at a whole school assembly. Pupils have other classroom rewards to encourage pupils to achieve their writing targets e.g. stackers, verbal and written praise.

With a rich diet of quality texts and enriching experiences children will be able to find their own reasons to write and develop a style that fits the purpose, audience and form intended. We love it when a pupil presents us with a card, or letter or poster that they have created for us at home (without prompting!)

Sponsored spelling event (bi annual) new 2022/23

Building cultural capital

We have an important role to play in equipping pupils with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life. We are excited to see the impact this will have on their written and oral communication over time.

We have invested in a range of texts– we have also ensured that these represent the protected characteristics outlined in equality law. It is important that all children gain an understanding of the world they are growing up in, and learn how to live alongside, and show respect for, a diverse range of people. We hope that this will ensure that as future writers they understand and promote equality in their future careers.

We realise that not all pupils will have the opportunity to access wider opportunities within their local community therefore the school offers a range of extended and personalised opportunities which enhance and develop pupils' knowledge of the society in which they live and the wider world: Recent clubs and trip have involved – media technology, yoga, street dance, Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Creswell Crags, Peak Venture Outdoor Centre, seaside visit and we have more planned each year.

School library visits, authors visits and an annual book fair will feature every year.

Resources for Active English and Spelling Shed are on our school website.

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