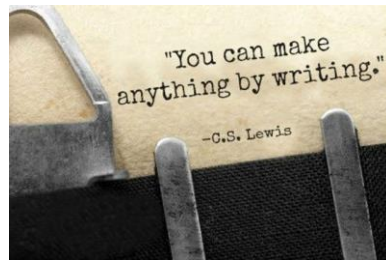


Writing at St Nicolas C of E Academy



Intent:

Writing is a crucial part of our curriculum at St Nicolas. Through a progressive curriculum, children develop a love of writing and are able to express their thoughts and ideas purposefully, clearly and creatively whilst showing an awareness of the reader. At St Nicolas, we are ambitious in our expectations for writing and set purposeful and engaging writing challenges. We enable pupils to use the essential skills of grammar, punctuation and spelling to write effectively.

Children learn how to proof read, edit and improve their own writing. Children take pride in their work and develop a fluent, joined handwriting style whilst allowing their imaginations to flourish.

Implementation:

In order to help us to develop confident, enthusiastic writers who can express themselves in a variety of different styles and across a variety of contexts, our teaching of writing is inspired by high quality texts which have been mapped to ensure a coverage of a range of authors and narrative types. Most of these texts will link to half-termly topics however they are chosen on literacy merit first and foremost. Non-Narrative writing, drama activities involving speaking and listening such as role play, hot-seating, carpet settings and conscience alleys strongly link to writing tasks and underpin writing outcomes. Pupils are regularly encouraged to orally rehearse what they intend to write.

Writing is a key element of the Read Write Inc. approach and the children are taught to develop sentences through a clear progression, beginning with writing a phrase or simple a sentence towards writing descriptive short narratives and writing for a range of purposes such as an informative poster, writing in role, instructions, list, recount, fact file, questions and answers. (See Progression through Read Write Inc. document.) In Foundation Stage, high quality picture books are mapped to match the curriculum and children apply the writing skills they have learned in Read Write Inc. lessons in activities within continuous provision areas.

Each year group from Year 1 to Year 6 studies a core text from each of the following genres: modern fiction, fiction from our cultural heritage, a visual literacy text, a picture book, and a traditional tale/legend. These high quality texts build progressively in level of challenge through the year groups and provide our children with regular opportunities to write for a range of purposes and audiences. These have also been planned for to ensure a balance in a progression in writing genres.

'Key Skills in Writing' lists have been created for each year group to establish which key writing skills are a focus. A glossary of grammar terms including definitions with examples makes it clear which grammar needs to be revisited and taught in each year group.

Children learn spellings at home each week and these are tested in school. The children have access to Spelling Shed, an on line platform where the teacher sets weekly spelling assignments so that the children revisit spelling rules and patterns in school, as well as at home. Children who need additional support with

spelling receive a variety of interventions that are tailored to address their gaps for example, Read Write Inc. Spelling, Nessy and precision teaching.

The educationalist Alan Peat devised a number of sentence types which have been proven to enhance progress and attainment in children's writing. We teach these throughout the school, beginning Year 1 with "2A sentences" (sentences that contain two adjectives before a noun) and culminating in Year 6 with the "Noun, who, which, where sentence" (a sentence with an embedded relative clause). We encourage the children to become confident with these sentence structures but then we encourage them to adapt and manipulate them to show a clear and conscious control of their writing.

To develop handwriting skills, the school uses the Letter-join scheme, an on-line handwriting scheme which the children have access to at home with a class log-in. Children begin to join using the basic joins in Year 2. Weekly handwriting is taught and handwriting homework is sent home to re-inforce what has been learned in school.

Impact:

Our pupils will acquire a wide vocabulary and have a strong command of the written word. We are very proud of the writing achievements of pupils. Standards in writing are high in every year group and this is evident in every corner of every corridor or classroom. Each year, we are very proud that our pupils' writing wins awards in the local, Nuneaton Festival of Arts Original Writing Competition.

Most importantly, pupils at St Nicolas develop a love of writing and are well equipped for the rest of their education.



