

*"I kept always two books in my pocket,
one to read, one to write in.*

*As I walked, my mind was busy fitting what I saw
with appropriate words; when I sat by the
roadside, I would either read or a pencil and a
penny version-book would be in my hand, to note
the features of the scene or commemorate some
halting stanzas. Thus I lived with words."*

Robert Louis Stevenson

Writing

Writing is a key aspect of the curriculum and along with reading, speaking and listening, it makes a significant contribution to the development of children as thinkers and learners. Our aim at Saint John's is for all children to develop their writing ability and enjoy the process of cultivating this life-long skill. We provide children with exciting, purposeful and inspiring contexts in which to become writers, ensuring that there is coherence, continuity and progression in our teaching from Reception to Year 6.

The National Curriculum for English aims to ensure that all pupils: "write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences"

At Saint John's we aim to:

- Provide purposeful writing opportunities where children write for a variety of audiences using a range of genres
- Enable children to produce high quality writing across all curriculum areas independently
- Develop writing stamina so that every piece of writing has a clear purpose and structure
- Inspire writing using quality texts and scripts such as stories, films, poems and posters
- Develop imagination, inventiveness and critical awareness
- Encourage children to become confident and reflective writers, editing and improving their ideas and initial drafts in order to produce a final outcome of which they can be proud
- Foster an interest in words and their meanings, developing a growing vocabulary in spoken and written forms
- Provide knowledge and strategies to become confident and accurate spellers
- Ensure children can write using fluent, legible handwriting

At Saint John's, a high-quality text is always at the heart of our planning. This emphasis on a text allows us to engage children and provide the setting for them to articulate their ideas and structure them in their writing. We use a process of deconstruction followed by reconstruction: children study, annotate and then produce their own pieces of writing. Throughout the process, children experience: shared writing, modelled writing, supported composition and independent writing. We ensure a wide variety of genres are covered throughout the school and our High Fives ensure that the knowledge and understanding of the fundamental techniques of writing; spelling, punctuation, grammar, vocabulary are addressed alongside the need to write legibly.

Writing for Purpose and an Audience

From the start of writing in EYFS and KS1, the children will focus on writing to **entertain**, with stories, description and poetry and to **inform** through signs/labels/captions, recounts, letters and instructions. When moving into KS2, these skills will be honed and added to with recounts, newspapers, biographies and reports aim to **inform** an audience. Writing will be used to **persuade** through adverts, letters, posters and booklets. In the final two years, to ensure our children are secondary-ready, we focus on writing to **explain**, as well as inform, and on speeches and debates which will **persuade, discuss** and **argue**. Using writing as a way to **express** ourselves is also fundamental as we know that this can often help with mental health and well-being.

Challenge

We are challenged and supported
to achieve success.

Caring

We care for and value
each other and ourselves.

Community

We work together to build
respectful relationships in all
communities.

Curriculum

We learn new and
amazing things!

Citizenship

We learn how to stand firm
as citizens of the world
around us and beyond.



Saint John's CE Primary School Curriculum Design

where we all flourish

We are 'like a tree, flourishing in God's unfailing love' Psalm 52:8

From diverse beginnings and building on our Christian values, we grow together to reach up and reach out.

Talk for Writing

Talk for Writing is a teaching framework developed by Pie Corbett, supported by Julia Strong. It is powerful because it is based on the principles of how children learn. Children imitate orally the language they need for a particular piece of writing: fun activities help them rehearse the language they need. This is followed by shared writing to show them how to write in the same style; the children read and analyse this shared text before they then write their own version.

Stage 1 – Imitation

Stage 2 – Innovation

Stage 3 – Independent Application

We are using this framework as it focuses on high-quality texts for reading, interactive and thoughtful engagement with the text, the modelling of writing by teachers and the opportunity for children to introduce their own ideas to create an independent and original piece of writing.

Learning to Write and Writing to Learn

Writing skills are developed across the whole school through a variety of teaching strategies: modelled writing, shared writing, guided writing and independent writing. At Saint John's, we want our children to enjoy writing from an early age. Our ultimate goal is for all children to be able to write independently and effectively for a wide range of audiences and various different styles.

Writing down ideas fluently depends on effective transcription: children need to be able spell quickly and accurately through knowing the relationship between sounds and letters (phonics) and understanding the morphology (word structure) and orthography (spelling structure) of words. This understanding begins in EYFS through daily, high quality phonics lessons. Children are encouraged to attempt their own emergent writing and their efforts are valued and celebrated. As their phonic knowledge increases, so does their ability to write independently. At the same time, their knowledge of key words is supported through reading and writing. Legible letter formation is taught and modelled on a daily basis. A wide variety of opportunities are provided for children to engage in writing activities and apply their phonic skills independently through role play, creative activities and the outdoor area. In Year 1, children continue to engage in daily phonics lessons to develop both reading and writing skills and this continues as needed into Year 2 (and beyond). In Key Stage 2, our children continue to use the Talk for Writing framework, imitating, innovating and applying their understanding to their own writing. Opportunities to re-edit and improve on their first draft are built into our writing sessions. Throughout the process, we focus on the technical aspects of writing in addition to style and structure, using our "High Fives".

Writing has obvious links to many subjects and teachers aim to make the most of those links to create exciting and purposeful writing opportunities. Children practise and develop their writing skills in foundation subjects and use knowledge from other subjects to inform and inspire writing in English lessons

We want our children to be encouraged by each other's writing so displaying children's work is important. We also collect examples of writing to show children and parents. Along with other ways of evaluating pupil progress and attainment, these examples help our school staff to monitor, assess and provide feedback. Extended writing is given specific areas for praise and next steps for development, ensuring that we continue to challenge the children to reach up and achieve their potential.



I can shake off
everything if
I write;
my sorrows
disappear.
my courage is
reborn.

- Anne Frank.