

The Writing Curriculum

Learning to write is one of the most important skills we want our pupils to learn during their time at Christ Church. Writing is used across almost all other subjects of the curriculum and gives children a means to communicate their ideas to the world.

Writing is multi-faceted, involving handwriting, spelling, grammar and punctuation, not to mention generating ideas on what to write and thinking about who we are writing for and how to organise it! It is not surprising, therefore, that writing is a difficult skill to acquire for some children.

With this in mind, at Christ Church we aim to:

- provide children with all the necessary skills so that they can write with confidence.
- enthuse children about writing so that they want to write.

Teaching the Skills needed for Writing - Laying the Foundations

In Reception and Year 1, children are taught essential writing skills through RWI:

- they learn to write and form the letters/letter groups which represent the 44 sounds with the help of fun phrases
- they learn to write words by using Fred Fingers
- they learn to build sentences by practising sentences out loud before they write.

The programme has writing activities which are linked to the storybooks at every level, as well as handwriting activities. They include many structured activities such as 'Hold a sentence' and 'Build a sentence' to help children become better writers.

Hold a sentence is an activity that encourages children to remember a whole sentence while focusing on spelling and punctuation.

Build a sentence gives children the opportunity to create their own sentence that shows the meaning of a word, while edit a sentence allows the children to critique a sentence using their knowledge of spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Vocabulary is taught in the context of the stories in the books. The teacher uses the words and phrases, and children are encouraged to use them in talk and in their writing.

Children are also given the opportunity to complete a longer piece of independent writing towards the end of their RWI book, which allows them to show off their creativity and to practise their spelling, grammar and punctuation.

Once children have completed the grey level of RWI, they move onto RWI spelling and longer pieces of independent writing.

Developing confident, skilled writers

For details of planning and progression through school, see our long term plans for English in the curriculum section of our Teaching and Learning tab on the website.

Grammar and punctuation are taught in context (linked to reading and writing topics) wherever possible, but there is also a focus on teaching children the grammar terms they need to know through engaging, interactive lessons.

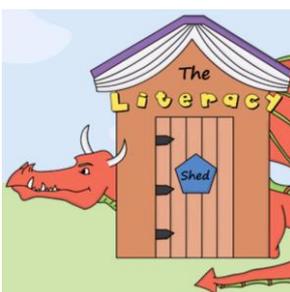


Read Write Inc. Spelling is a 15-minute-a-day programme for Years 2 to 6. Using a proven approach underpinned by phonics, fast-paced lessons and an online subscription, Read Write Inc. Spelling prepares children for the higher demands of the statutory spelling assessments in England.

The 'process' of writing is taught explicitly throughout school as the following stages: plan, write, proof-read, edit, redraft. We want Christ Church pupils to take pride in their written work, showing their absolute best effort in published work.

An Engaging Curriculum

Wherever possible, real purposes for writing will be planned. Links across the curriculum are vital: this enables vocabulary, punctuation and grammar to be learned and used in a meaningful context.



The use of resources such as short film clips (Literacy Shed) have a positive impact on our pupils' writing.

Writing in response to quality class texts is also a key part of our approach to teaching literacy.

Read on to see examples of our fantastic writing through school. Prepare to be wowed!