



Writing at JFCPS

Mission Statement

“To be the best that we can be.”

Curriculum Overview for Writing

At Johnson Fold Writing has a prominent place in the curriculum and high standards are promoted at all times. Our aim is that all children will be able to speak and write fluently so that they are able to communicate their thoughts, ideas and emotions to others in order to fully participate in society. We celebrate writing in school by displaying children’s writing in classrooms and around the school building. Also, through including writing examples in our ‘Wonderful Writing Book’, which is kept at the front of school for visitors to look at.

We support the aims of the National Curriculum 2014 which is for all children to be competent in the two dimensions of:

1. Transcription: spelling and handwriting
2. Composition: articulating ideas and structuring them in speech and writing.

EYFS

In Early Years children will be encouraged to develop their communication, language and literacy through playing, exploring and active learning, whilst also taking part in small guided writing tasks. To develop independence and a love of writing, there are a range of activities available in all areas of the EYFS classrooms for children to access throughout the day as well as the writing area. Through the *Letters and Sounds* programme, children are taught letter formation and spelling patterns on a daily basis for 20 mins. In EYFS children develop their fine and gross motor skills, in a daily 10 minute session to music, through Squiggle Whilst You Wiggle, dough disco and mark making activities.

Spelling

It is crucial that children learn to spell. The quality of writing is often prejudged by readers based on first impressions of the quality of the spelling. In key Stage One spelling is taught during directed *Letters and Sounds* teaching for 20 mins each day and in Key Stage Two spelling rules will be taught weekly. Children will be given new spellings to learn each week, that should be practised and rehearsed at home daily. At the end of the academic year they will be expected to be able to spell all the words specified in the National Curriculum list for their age group and spell them accurately within their writing. (See separate lists of spellings for each year group.)

Handwriting

At Johnson Fold when children are taught to form their letters, right from the very beginning they are taught to use a cursive handwriting style. Specific handwriting lessons take place in each year group from Reception to Year Six totaling 45-60 mins each week. Children will be encouraged to develop the letters correctly which then progresses naturally to a joined, neat and legible handwriting style. In Key Stage Two, when they are consistently using a neat and joined handwriting style, the children will gain a *pen license* and be allowed to complete their writing using a school handwriting pen.

The skills of transcription and composition will be taught daily within Literacy lessons, as well as through other subjects in our curriculum. Within the teaching of writing, children will be taught to use correct grammatical terms; how to control their speaking and writing using Standard English; how to extend their own vocabulary, as well as planning and editing skills.

Children will experience a mixture of genres every year that encompass non-fiction, narrative and poetry, and will produce independent pieces of writing for each of these genres. Where possible, teachers will give children the opportunity to write for a 'real' purpose in order to engage them in the writing and enhance their understanding. Children will also be encouraged to take part in drama and role play activities, where there is an element of performance to support their use and development of spoken language.