



Writing Curriculum Intent

Intent

"Writing is a way of saying you and the world have a relationship." – Michael Rosen.

At St Nicholas, we aim for all children to become confident, fluent writers who can express their ideas clearly and creatively. We believe writing is not just a skill to be learnt, but a tool for communication, creativity, and reflection. Our writing curriculum is designed to develop pupils emotionally, socially, intellectually, and spiritually, fostering a love for writing across various genres and styles.

Our goal is for every child to view themselves as an author, capable of planning, drafting, and editing their work with purpose and clarity. We prioritise exposure to high-level vocabulary and the exploration of cultural diversity.

Implementation

To develop pupils as writers:

- We have chosen HFL Education's **ESSENTIALWRITING** as the basis of our writing curriculum for years 1-6. This is an ambitious and progressive writing scheme which provides our children with opportunities and tools to write for a range of specific purposes and authentic audiences. As a result, our children feel inspired and ready to write high-quality outcomes within the classroom but also have the knowledge, strategies and confidence to choose to write in their own lives.

Spelling and Grammar Curriculum

- In EYFS and Key Stage 1, phonics is taught daily using the Little Wandle phonics scheme.
- In Key Stage 2, spelling is taught explicitly through the use of spelling shed 1 x per week and integrated within English daily lessons.
- Grammar has been carefully woven into English lessons and mapped through the Essential Writing scheme.
- Spelling Shed is also used for home learning practice starting from Year 1, supporting pupils in developing their spelling skills consistently at home.

Handwriting Progression

- In EYFS and Year 1, Little Wandle is used to teach letter formation.
- Cursive handwriting is introduced in Year 2 using Teach Handwriting guidelines, with all staff modelling the expected font.

Learning, Loving, Living in God's Family

"But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God's unfailing love forever and ever. Psalm 52:8



St Nicholas C of E (VA) Primary School and Nursery



- In KS2 handwriting is explicitly taught and modelled by teachers 1 x per week and integrated within lessons.
- Progression aligns with National Curriculum expectations, with ongoing practice and refinement from Year 2 onwards.

Writing Pedagogy

Writing instruction is organised along three tiers to ensure progress for all:

1. Early Writing and Handwriting:

- Daily mark-making and letter formation in EYFS and Y1 using Little Wandle phonics.
- Cursive handwriting begins in Year 2, progressing to joined scripts from Year 3 onwards.

2. Genre Exploration:

- Focus on planning, drafting, and editing across various genres.
- Writing opportunities are based on high-quality texts, with integrated grammar and punctuation instruction.
- Children are exposed to a minimum of 4 hours of English teaching each week, centred on a book and genre.

3. Interactive and Creative Learning:

- Lessons include opportunities for drama, hot seating, role play, and oracy, enhancing pupil engagement and understanding.
- Pupils are encouraged to publish their work in a variety of ways, fostering creativity and confidence.

Classroom Writing Environment

- Classrooms are equipped with resources and displays that promote high standards of writing and presentation.
- Teachers model the expected handwriting style in their writing on boards, in books, and on displays.

Assessment

- Writing progress is regularly assessed through teacher observations, peer and self-assessment, and written feedback.
- The school uses termly assessments to track progress and inform future instruction.
- Writing is moderated during a writing moderation meeting 1 x term.

Entitlement and Inclusion

- All children have access to a broad and balanced writing curriculum.

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- Differentiation and targeted support ensure that diverse learning needs are met through the whole school approach of 5-a-day (EEF) principle and adaptive teaching.

Home Learning

- Parents are encouraged to support writing practice at home, using resources such as Spelling Shed and handwriting practice.

Monitoring

- A detailed monitoring cycle includes lesson observations, book looks, and pupil voice to evaluate the effectiveness of writing instruction.

Impact

Through our comprehensive writing curriculum, children at St Nicholas become competent writers, equipped with the skills to express themselves creatively and effectively. Attainment is measured using statutory assessments, with results compared against national benchmarks. By the time they leave St Nicholas, most children are confident authors, eager to explore and communicate through writing.

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