

# Writing at St Helens



At St Helens, we believe that writing is an essential communication tool that encompasses all subjects within the National Curriculum.

Writing is an important lifelong skill. Children need

to learn to write so they can communicate and express themselves.

We aim to teach our children to write with grammatical accuracy, use an increasing range of vocabulary and use sentence structures that fit the purpose and writing for effect.

Writing at St Helens will come in many forms from creative narrative, diary writing and poetry to more structured newspaper articles, non chronological reports and science reports to name a few.

By the end of year 6, we hope our writers will combine both individual flair and write with increasing accuracy and awareness of the intended audience.

## Writing in EYFS

Writing begins with mark making as children begin to develop gross and fine motor skills.

Formal writing, taught later in reception, involves transcription (spelling and handwriting) and composition (articulating ideas and structuring them in speech, before writing).

Children at the expected level of development will learn to use a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing - using the tripod grip in almost all cases.

As the year progresses they will begin to write recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed. This includes spelling words by identifying sounds in them, representing the sounds with a letter or letters and writing simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others.

## Writing in Key Stage One

In Adventurers, we use a variety of rich texts that form our creative curriculum including reading and writing sessions; children will read both fiction and non-fiction books from a range of genres and cultures that enables them to write in a range of styles.

Lots of modelled and shared writing takes place to immerse the children into the text and genre we are focusing on. Within our learning journeys key punctuation, sentence structure and grammar aspects are taught to the children to provide them with the skills to complete their independent writing tasks.

All children will receive a daily English session. In line with Hampshire guidance, the children are hooked into the genre through various means including pictures, role play or video clips that help to attract children's interest.

As part of the lesson, there will be an element of teacher input followed by opportunities for children to write independently practising the taught skills .

Along with concrete resources such as dictionaries, word mats, examples of spelling, the English working wall provides children with support to practise writing skills.

### Writing in Lower Key Stage Two

We continue to use a diverse range of rich texts that often provide cross curricular links to other subject areas.

All writing is planned using learning journeys where children understand the final outcome, purpose, audience and genre that they will be writing in.

Children plan their writing before editing their work individually, with a partner or with an adult as appropriate. This will involve making changes to grammar, spelling and vocabulary.

Each lesson will follow a lesson objective and success criteria that children follow as they approach their final write.

## Writing in Upper Key Stage Two

In *Pioneers*, children's writing lessons are planned through a learning journey based around a rich text.

Exploration of the text is a powerful way of developing skills relating to composition and effect, text structures and organisation, sentence structure as well as vocabulary, grammar and punctuation. These texts prove powerful models for recognising the features of different text types and how a text relates to its audience and purpose.

Children continue to develop their editing skills learnt in previous years. In addition to grammatical and spelling errors, pupils will be encouraged to edit their writing to improve the structure and content to add greater depth and/or effectiveness.

### Greater Depth Writing

All pupils will be encouraged to experiment with their techniques, word choice and vocabulary.

Higher ability writers have the ability to develop a greater awareness of their audience and create more powerful technical and accurate pieces where they deliberately manipulate grammar and punctuation for effect.