

Writing

Intent

At Our Lady of Grace RC Primary School, we place a high importance on children developing a love of writing and strive to provide a rich and inspiring English curriculum to achieve this. We believe it is vital that pupils gain the skills and knowledge to become confident and effective communicators in the wider world.

We actively provide immersive experiences—such as trips, enrichment opportunities, and visits from outside speakers—to widen pupils' horizons and inspire writing from first-hand experiences.

Our aims for the teaching and learning of writing are that children will be able to:

- Write with growing confidence, clarity, and purpose.
- Write imaginatively, creatively, and expressively.
- Understand how to write across a range of genres (including non-fiction, fiction, and poetry), using the appropriate style and features.
- Plan, draft, revise, and edit their work, applying self- and peer-assessment effectively.
- Apply their knowledge of phonics and spelling rules.
- Write for different purposes, audiences, and enjoyment.
- Take pride in the presentation of their work, including handwriting and letter formation appropriate to their age and ability.
- Use age-appropriate spellings, punctuation, and grammar, following our whole-school progression systems.

Implementation

EYFS

At Our Lady of Grace RC Primary School, emergent writing is encouraged in EYFS through carefully planned opportunities that include:

- A range of mark-making resources (chalks, paint, sand, pencils, pens, crayons) to explore writing before moving on to letters and words.
- Pre-writing activities such as doodle sticks, ball disco, dough disco, and pen disco to build early writing and literacy skills.
- A mixture of small group activities and whole-class teaching in Reception.
- Carefully chosen stories and texts, taught through our EYFS writing process.
- Adults modelling writing, explicitly demonstrating steps to success.
- Writing scaffolds to promote independence and break tasks into manageable steps.
- Opportunities to apply phonics knowledge in both provision and adult-led writing.

- Support for gross motor development (e.g. climbing, bikes, large mark-making, construction, and water play) to strengthen writing foundations.

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2

At Our Lady of Grace RC Primary School, writing is taught through a structured and engaging approach that nurtures creativity, accuracy, and independence. We follow a consistent writing process to ensure progression from Year 1 to Year 6.

Children are supported through:

- Carefully chosen texts linked to topics, providing rich vocabulary and meaningful contexts.
- Immersive hooks and oracy opportunities to inspire ideas for writing.
- Modelled and shared writing, where teachers demonstrate the writing process and decision-making.
- SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation, and Grammar) teaching—both discrete and within writing lessons.
- Scaffolds and success criteria adapted for all learners, including SEND and EAL, to support independence.
- Dedicated time for planning, drafting, editing, and revising, following our whole-school Writing Process:
 - Immersion – Inspiring writing through rich stimuli and discussion.
 - Skills Practice – Applying SPaG, vocabulary, and cohesion techniques.
 - Planning – Gathering and organising ideas with purpose.
 - Drafting – Structuring and writing key ideas.
 - Revising and Editing – Refining accuracy, impact, and effectiveness.

Assessment

Teachers use AFL (Assessment for Learning) to build on prior knowledge and adapt planning. Assessment and feedback methods include:

- Reviewing work against clear objectives.
- Verbal feedback (whole class and individual).
- Marking with next steps.
- Peer and self-assessment.
- Teacher observations over time.

Summative assessment:

- At least three independent writing pieces each half term.
- Year 2 and 6 assessed with the Teacher Assessment Framework; Years 1, 3, 4 and 5 assessed using Oxford Writing Criterion Scale.
- Moderation takes place half-termly in school, annually with local partners, and externally for Year 6 as required.

Handwriting

Handwriting is taught consistently with lessons focusing on letter formation and joins.

- In EYFS and KS1, pupils use tracing and line guides for correct size and orientation.
- Joining begins in Year 2, with fluency expected by Year 3.
- Adaptations (e.g. coloured backgrounds, magnified texts) support pupils with additional needs.

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG)

- SPaG is taught in context through writing units and dedicated weekly SPaG lessons.
- Spelling begins with phonics in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2, and from Year 3 onwards is taught through *Spelling Shed*.
- Spellings are practised and consolidated through morning work, homework, and online platforms such as Purple Mash and Spelling Shed.

Impact

Our approach to writing ensures that pupils at Our Lady of Grace RC Primary School:

- Achieve in line with, or above, national expectations by the end of Key Stage 2.
- Develop the skills to write clearly, creatively, and with purpose.
- Build strong foundations in spelling, grammar, and handwriting.
- Apply their writing skills confidently across the curriculum.
- Make good progress across their writing journey.
- Leave us as confident, independent writers, well-prepared for the next stage of their education.