

Curriculum Leadership - Subject Vision

Subject / Curriculum Area: Writing

Vision

At Dovers Green School we believe that being literate is a fundamental life skill and that it is our responsibility to ensure children leave our school as confident, proficient writers. Our vision is that the children we teach leave Dovers Green with a genuine love of writing. We want them to enjoy the writing process and be able to use it as one of their main forms of communication. We want our children to use writing to express themselves accurately and creatively, and in different contexts. We want them to be reflective writers of both fiction and non-fiction texts and understand how language works by looking at its patterns and structures. We place high priority on spoken language and using rich vocabulary and therefore expect our children's writing to reflect this.

What does your subject area offer the Dovers children?

The opportunity to communicate in written form throughout all areas of the curriculum. The opportunity to work as independent writers, using resources and references in the classroom to aid their writing. The opportunity to be reflective writers, through the use of verbal targets in Early Years and written targets in KS1. The opportunity to be expressive, both creatively and imaginatively, and become enthusiastic and critical writers of both fiction and non-fiction texts. The opportunity to gain an understanding of how language works by looking at its patterns and structures through oracy, spelling and grammar lessons. The opportunity to work on spelling and sentence structure during daily phonics lessons. The opportunity to take part in 'whole school writes' where all children write together and for a purpose. The opportunity for written work to be enjoyed and celebrated on a regular basis.

How does your subject enhance the curriculum?

Writing is an essential communication tool which is used every day in school. Teaching children to write clearly and accurately means they can communicate their thoughts, ideas and the learning they have acquired across all areas of the curriculum. Exposing children to a wide range of high quality vocabulary and encouraging them to use this in their writing means they can express thoughts more deeply, whatever subject they are learning.

What use is it to children later in life?

Writing is a vital part of communicating and children will need to write coherently to communicate in all aspects of their lives - personal and professional.

What are the main skills and knowledge (overarching objectives) you want teachers to focus on?

Children need to be able to:

- Use their phonic knowledge to spell words
- Understand sentence structure and write grammatically correct sentences so as to be understood by others through the teaching of shape coding
- Verbalise what they are going to write
- Use a wide range of vocabulary both in their spoken and written English
- Discuss and reflect on their written work and edit it where necessary
- Foster an enjoyment for writing and have a recognition of its value through writing for a variety of purposes (to describe, to entertain, to explain, to inform and to persuade)
- Write using a cursive script in KS1 when ready to do so

Curriculum Leadership - Intent, Implementation and Impact

Subject/Curriculum Area: Writing

Intent

At Dovers it is our intent that when children leave our school at the end of year 2 they move forward with the skills to be confident, accurate, expressive and reflective writers. We want them to be able to communicate their thoughts, feelings and ideas in written form so they are easily interpreted by others. We want them to use interesting, relevant and rich vocabulary in their writing so what they write is of interest to others.

- The teaching of writing is progressive, building on skills and knowledge previously taught.
- Children in EYs are given the opportunity to refine their fine motor skills, mark making and letter formation through carefully planned, high quality continuous provision and through the Write Dance programme.
- Children are given the opportunity to practise writing sentences daily.
- Children receive high quality feedback about their writing and know what their next steps are.
- Children are able to reflect on their writing through the use of individual targets.
- Children have access to a rigorous phonics programme (RWI) which equips them to pass the phonics screening test at the end of year 1.
- Children understand the key components of a story and are able to re-tell stories and write their own using exciting, carefully chosen texts as inspiration.
- Children are able to independently use resources and displays in the classroom to help improve their writing.
- Children are taught shape coding and use this technique if they find writing sentences difficult.
- By the end of year 1 children should be using cursive script, unless their class teacher has made the decision it is not appropriate for them.
- Children will be able to use their phonic knowledge to spell decodable words and will have discrete spelling lessons in KS1 to teach spelling rules and how to spell common exception words.
- High quality writing is valued and celebrated.
- Resources to support writing should be easily accessible in all classrooms.
- Children's writing is assessed against the National Curriculum and using Target Tracker.
- Children take part in a writing assessments before every data drop so teachers are able to assess completely independent writing.
- Writing moderations ensure a consistent approach to levelling.
- English subject leaders are knowledgeable and up to date with new initiatives to help support and improve the teaching of writing.
- Teaching staff are highly skilled in teaching our key approaches to writing.
- The teaching of writing is regularly monitored by SLT and English leads.
- Children are expected to make 6 steps progress on Target Tracker in writing each year.
- Children falling behind in writing are supported through interventions and careful scaffolding in class.
- Disadvantaged children make at least expected progress in writing.
- Greater depth writers are planned for and challenged accordingly, mastery objectives are met.

How does our writing curriculum cater for PP?

- The CATCH strategy is used by all teaching staff to ensure the PP children have frequent opportunities for discussions and are supported and challenged to succeed in their writing lessons.
- PP children are given priority when writing intervention groups as decided.
- PP meetings and data reports identify children who need support with writing.

How does our writing curriculum cater for SEND?

- Children with ISPs have specific writing targets that are shared with all adults who work with them.
- Careful top down planning.
- SEND children often work towards the same objective as the rest of the class but with careful scaffolding.
- Use of technology to support and engage SEND children with their writing, e.g. Clicker, LED boards, laptops
- Phoneme frames, task boards and visual word mats are used to support children with their writing.

- T4W- learning stories using actions.
- Use of shape coding to help with sentence construction.

How does our writing curriculum cater for higher attainers/mastery?

- High expectations.
- Exposure to high quality texts to inspire.
- Not accepting first ideas/thoughts.... Push, push , push
- Ambitious targets.
- Guided writes to work on higher skills.

How is ICT used to support writing?

- Videos, short film, image to inspire.
- LED boards to encourage reluctant writers.
- Clicker to help with sentence construction.
- Writing on iPads/computers.
- Nessy online phonics programme on iPads to help with spelling.
- Voice recorders/talking books.

Implementation

- The National Curriculum and EYFS Framework are both followed carefully and are regularly referred to when planning for writing. This is also reinforced by the overview documents, which map out what is taught for each term in each year group for writing, spelling and grammar. The progression grids have whole school agreed objectives for the end term, these are the fundamental skills we want the children to display before moving into the next year. The grids show how we allow for re-visiting and consolidation over the three years at Dovers. They are displayed in the planning room and are also saved on the drive, ensuring easy access for teachers when planning.
- Children in EYFS attend weekly Write Dance sessions to prepare them for mark making and forming letters.
- Children are given the opportunity to write sentences during early morning carpet activities, during their daily RWI lesson, during topic work and during writing lessons.
- Children have access to at least one shared writing session a day as well as at least one guided writing session per week.
- All teaching staff are expected to give verbal feedback to the children they are supporting in regards to their writing as well as next steps through the use of symbols in KS1.
- Teachers give children in KS1 a weekly target in their writing books using our symbol approach. Children are encouraged to refer to this when they write and are asked to reflect on their target once they have finished.
- Daily phonics teaching starts within weeks of the children starting school, with listening games moving onto whole class RWI lessons where the children begin to learn single sounds. After Christmas the EYs children are then streamed into ability groups. Children in year 1 and 2 also receive a daily RWI lesson (lasting 30 minutes) and children are streamed across the key stage. Once children have completed the RWI scheme they move onto RWI spelling which also happens daily for 30 minutes.
- Three out of the six half terms are used to teach Talk 4 Writing in each year group. This means the children re-tell then write at least 3 high quality stories a year, where they follow the imitation, innovation and invention process.
- English working walls in KS1 classrooms support the skills being taught in writing each week and are split into 3 sections- writing/topic, grammar and spelling. The children use these independently to support their writing. Key vocabulary is displayed to help the children with their composition of sentences and spelling. Every class (including EYs) should have the shape coding shapes on display for the children to refer to.
- All teaching staff are trained to use shape coding, this technique is used to support those who struggle with sentence formation and within interventions.
- Children in Early Years are taught to form letters with a lead in and lead out ready to join letters at a later stage. Children in year 1 have handwriting lessons to support the teaching of cursive script. Fine motor skills groups/handwriting intervention groups support children who struggle with their handwriting and in KS1 handwriting books are sent home for those who need extra practise.
- Children learn to spell through the Read Write Inc phonics programme and are regularly assessed to ensure they are working in the correct group for their phonic knowledge. In addition to RWI, discrete spelling

lessons are taught in year 1 from the spring term and in year 2 the children who have completed the RWI phonics programme have a daily RWI spelling lesson for 30 minutes per session. To improve children's spelling of high frequency/common exception words children take home a set of words to learn to read and spell. This starts in Early Years and the children carry on learning these as they move into KS1 until they have completed all sets. These words are assessed in school.

- Discrete grammar lessons are taught in KS1 as well as it being interwoven into all writing opportunities.
- Writing is encouraged and celebrated in school through the use of proud patches/wow walls. If children make mistakes when writing these are also celebrated through our marvellous mistakes board.
- English working walls in KS1 should document the writing journey for each class as well as provide keep vocab. RWI resources and key spellings should be available whenever children are writing.
- As well as on-going teacher assessment children's writing is formally assessed before each data drop through a planned writing assessment. Target tracker is used to highlight objectives being worked towards or met. Whole school writing moderations ensure we are all levelling in a similar way and a folder of work is kept for staff to refer to.
- Writing moderations across the year group are ongoing but must happen before a data drop. At least one whole school writing moderation happens each year, with all children writing against the same brief. A folder with examples of levelled writing is kept in the planning room for teachers to refer to. Before end of key stage writing levels are submitted teaching staff meet to moderate writing from the year 2 children. Writing moderations also happen with other schools across the academy at different times in the year.
- English subject leaders attend network meetings, support groups with local school/schools in the academy and continue to further their CDP by attending courses and doing further reading.
- When new initiatives are brought into school all teaching staff are trained, and refresher sessions happen each year to ensure consolidation and consistency (e.g. T4W, CLICKER, Shape Coding).
- Subject leads and SLT observe the teaching of writing and feedback to ensure best practise continues. Book looks are completed to check how writing is being taught across the school and to monitor children's progress. Pupil voice is an element of lesson observations to ensure children's views are taken into account.
- The English subject leads create a writing report each term to analyse data and create next steps for the school as a whole and for each year group.
- Interventions are in place for children who struggle with writing, such as fine motor skills groups, ELS, Shape Coding and handwriting groups. Children who have a special educational need in writing will have targets on their ISP/EHCP linked with this. In our COIN unit the teachers use Colourful Semantics and Shape Coding to help teach the children how to write. In classrooms we use Clicker, LED boards, task boards, pencil grips and writing slopes to support children who find writing a challenge.
- Disadvantaged children are carefully monitored when data is collected each term. A member of SLT oversees pupil premium progress and the support provided for them. They all attend a weekly reading group to help widen their vocabulary. Pre-teaching is available for those PP children who need it. SEN children are supported with their writing through ISP targets, carefully chosen resources and scaffolding.
- During planning teachers consider the more able writers and how to challenge them. We have specific mastery objectives in each year group to work towards.

Impact

- Teaching approaches to writing are consistent across the school thanks to a whole staff training approach.
- The use of T4W has really improved the children's ability to write stories and learning stories verbally has given them the necessary vocabulary to write coherently and structurally. Book looks show story writing has been refined and children are now able to write stories more independently.
- RWI is showing impact. Staff confidence in delivering sessions is far higher thanks to training and refresher sessions. Children have come up to year 1 with higher levels of phonics this year. RWI assessment shows the children are making rapid progress and improvement in spelling is more apparent in books. We will be able to compare data more easily at the end of this year as at present, because of two lockdowns, we have not had a full year's data to analyse. Children will also take the phonics screening this year, which has been cancelled the previous two years.
- Children have become more reflective writers and are aware of their target in writing, particularly in KS1. During lesson observations children were able to discuss their targets and had a clear understanding of how to improve their writing.

- Shape coding is currently being embedded in all year groups and has been particularly successful when supporting less able writers. Staff are confident using this approach, thanks to regular training sessions from our speech therapist. Children attending shape coding intervention groups and work with shape coding during speech therapy sessions. They have a greater understanding of what constitutes a sentence and it has been evident in class that their sentence formation has improved.
- Learning walks show high emphasis is placed on oracy and rich vocabulary and resources and displays in the classroom reinforce this.

We analyse the impact of our writing provision in school by looking at data, particularly end of year data over the three years.

EYFS:

2017-2018 Dovers 85.7 % National 73.3%

2018-2019 Dovers 76.4 % National 73.7%

2019- 2020 Dovers 77% prediction due to Covid

2020-2021 Dovers 71% (Covid)

We normally sit comfortably above national. The last two years have been directly affected by Covid.

End of Key Stage 1 results:

2017-2018 Dovers 70 % National 70%

2018-2019 Dovers 76% National 69%

2019- 2020 (predicted) Dovers 73.8%

2020-2021 Dovers 49%

Covid has had a huge impact on last year's results with only 49% of children meeting expected. We expect this year to be different as 64% met expected by the end of year 1 and we know this will rise.

Writing continues to be an SDP priority.