Writing Curriculum Statement

Writing at Laira Green Primary

At Laira Green Primary, we strive to foster a love of writing in every child. We want all children within our care to develop the skills of an excellent writer, with their own 'author's voice'. We support children to write fluently, drawing on an ever-expanding bank of vocabulary, and altering their style of writing to suit the purpose and audience. By the time they move on to secondary school, we intend for our children to have the confidence and skills to demonstrate high-quality writing that is well presented, effectively structured, and has been independently edited and improved to showcase the best of their ability.

Our Preschool learners have constant access to activities to develop their fine and gross motor skills, developing mark making, painting and the concept of writing for purposes. In Reception and Year 1, children are taught to write individual letters following their phonics learning, and then phonetically plausible words in short sentences. Children participate in daily whole-class handwriting lessons, with opportunities to practice letter formation developing as new graphemes are introduced. As children's fine motor skills develop, towards the end of year 2 children are taught to begin joining letters, so that in KS2 they are able to write fluently, joining all letters in full cursive handwriting. Regular handwriting lessons in Year 3 and 4 help children to learn and practise this formation, delivered through integrated spelling lessons in Year 5 and 6. High standards of presentation are expected in all books across the curriculum to support children's pride and consistency, with all children striving to beat their own 'personal best' in handwriting and presentation.

From Y1-Y6, teachers plan writing units using the Babcock 'BookWrites' resources, which teach writing through using high-quality fiction, non-fiction and poetry texts. Children have many opportunities to write across the curriculum, and are taught and expected to uphold the same high standards of writing regardless of the subject. Throughout each year, children will write for a range of purposes and produce work demonstrating different text types, and as they progress through the school will further their writing skills and understanding of increasingly complex grammar. New grammar concepts are taught explicitly through the 'BookWrites' units, giving children immediate opportunities to apply their new knowledge in independent writing. In addition, daily retrieval practice from Y2 upwards enables pupils to regularly freshen their knowledge and understanding of a wide variety of grammar and punctuation terms.

In Reception and KS1, spelling is taught as part of the Little Wandle phonics programme followed by Little Wandle's 'Bridge to Spelling', continually helping pupils to improve their understanding of grapheme-phoneme correspondence. In KS2, teachers use "Spelling Shed" resources to further develop children's spelling skills - focussing on a specific set of words each week, and teaching children to identify new patterns and become skilled at applying their knowledge to new words.

At Laira Green Primary, we expect our writers to:

- Think carefully about the audience and purpose of each piece of writing
- Take inspiration from what they have read to use in their own writing
- Plan work carefully, to include suitable key features
- Use high-level and sophisticated vocabulary
- Edit and improve their writing independently to make it their best possible work
- Take pride in the presentation of all their writing