



# **Writing Strategy**

**2024 - 2025**

## **INTENT**

The writing curriculum is designed to provide a broad and balanced education that meets the needs of all children. It provides opportunities for children to develop as independent, confident and successful writers, with high aspirations, who know how to make a positive contribution to their community and the wider society.

Our intent is for all pupils – irrespective of their needs, abilities or background – to learn to write fluently, developing their own writer’s voice. We aim to meet, and where possible exceed, the expectations laid out in the Early Learning Goals and National Curriculum, with pupils progressing appropriately across school. We recognise that spoken language underpins the development of Writing. The quality of language that pupils hear and speak is vital for developing their vocabulary and grammar and their understanding Writing. We believe that children need to develop a secure knowledge-base in Literacy, which follows a clear pathway of progression as they advance through the primary curriculum. We believe that a secure basis in literacy skills is crucial to a high quality education and will give our children the tools they need to participate fully as a member of society.

We cultivate a love of Writing and communicating through vocabulary rich and high quality literature, using **Ready Steady Write** by Literacy Counts. By inspiring and developing an appreciation of our rich and varied literary heritage and providing meaningful and exciting provocations to write, we develop a habit of writing widely and often. We recognise the importance of nurturing a culture where children take pride in their Writing; can write clearly and accurately and adapt their language and style for a range of contexts.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

Organisation and Curriculum Coverage

**Ready Steady Write** empowers teachers to provide high-quality teaching of writing through high-quality literature. These detailed units of work centre on engaging, vocabulary-rich texts, with a wealth of writing opportunities within and across the curriculum. They provide:

- Clear sequential Episodes of Learning
- Vocabulary learning and contextualised spelling, grammar and punctuation
- Wider reading for the wider curriculum
- Example Texts linked to writing outcomes
- A wealth of supporting resource

Our English curriculum is developed around a sequence of high quality age-appropriate texts, using Literacy Count’s **Ready Steady Write** units of learning. We use each book to create opportunities to:

- develop grammar and punctuation knowledge and understanding to use and apply across the wider curriculum, through sentence accuracy sessions;
- explore the Writing structure and features of different genres, identifying the purpose and audience;
- plan and write an initial piece of Writing with a clear context and purpose before evaluating the effectiveness of Writing by editing and redrafting.

Building on this foundation, we teach literacy using a range of strategies which include:

- Group Discussion – Children discuss and interrogate new ideas in a small group or whole class setting. They listen to and value each other’s ideas whilst taking on board feedback so as to improve their own

explanations.

- Partner Talk – Children work in partners to discuss their ideas. They are able to explain their ideas about texts they have read and prepare their ideas before they write.
- Questioning – Teachers use a range of questioning strategies to establish children’s current understanding and develop their learning.
- Modelled Writing – Teachers model Writing and editing to demonstrate the high expectations they have. They verbally ‘think aloud’ in order to make the Writing process explicit and provide a rich and varied vocabulary for the children to utilise in their own work. This happens daily, through sentence accuracy
- Shared Writing – Teachers use the ideas from the children to create shared pieces of Writing. This enables the children to see the Writing process in action as well as having pride and ownership over the finished piece.
- Editing – All children are signposted to regular opportunities for reviewing and editing their own and the work of others.
- Working walls – Teachers and children regularly update working walls to ensure learning is documented within a unit of work.

Class teachers ensure that the Writing process is clearly evident on working walls, with modelled examples being available to all pupils as the sequence of lessons develops.

### Resources

Each class has a resource box with their **Ready Steady Write** vehicle texts, reveal objects and supplementary texts which support the themes and genre being taught for that half term. The lesson plans, resources and leadership support is found on the membership homepage online. The Enhancements for the units can be seen in our indoor and outdoor areas in EYFS.

### Working Walls and Table Resources

Each class is expected to develop an English working wall which adapts daily with teaching. Displays should model the writing process and scaffolds needed for children to apply to their own writing. Spellings, handwriting and supporting phonics materials should also be displayed within the classroom to aid children’s writing. Sentence accuracy checkers are available to all children, both in their books and in the environment. Staff will model the expectations throughout the curriculum.

### Planning

The entire writing curriculum is mapped out on coverage and progression documents. Then, the **Ready Steady Write** units include all of the resources needed for each teacher to plan and deliver lessons. There are a range of scaffolds and supporting resources and teachers tweak and shape the units to meet the specific needs of their children. There are also assessment proformas which are completed half termly and identify next steps for children.

### Inclusion

#### Children with English as an additional language:

It is vital that children who have English as an additional language have English modelled accurately by all staff at school. Collaborative work with peers (where English is their first language) is essential and EAL children should be provided with consistent opportunities for this verbal interaction. All teachers include a range of strategies to support children with EAL which includes:

- Teacher and peer modelling and consistent use of visual support
- Repetition and recasting of language features
- Word banks and scaffolded speaking and listening activities
- Resources that include images to secure language understanding
- Use of technology to support interpretation of Example Texts

Teachers work with the SENDCO to best meet the needs of individuals within their classes. Children who are new to English are assessed and support is put in place by the SENDCO to help them make rapid progress.

#### Children with Special Educational Needs:

Some children experience learning difficulties, which affect their progress in English. Class teachers inform the SENDCO if they are concerned that a child may have underlying learning difficulties. Some children then

receive SEN support. This may include:

- scaffolds and supports to develop writing ideas and language acquisition
- technology to support the generation of ideas, develop words banks and plan and write
- explicit instruction, including the modelling of sentences, paragraphs, planning and editing – with opportunities for the children to practice modelled techniques
- a focus on cognitive and metacognitive strategies to help children articulate their learning
- flexible groupings to ensure peer support and appropriate level of challenge

#### **Confident and competent writers:**

Children are given opportunities to deepen their knowledge in writing and to effectively draw upon their reading when constructing texts. Writing groups and differentiation. Lesson plans for **Ready Steady Write** include appropriate challenge and these are considered when delivering lessons.

## **IMPACT**

The innovative practice across the school provides a strong foundation and opportunities for children to collaborate and develop social skills both indoors and out. This curriculum design ensures that the needs of individual and small groups of children can be met within the environment of quality first teaching, supported by targeted, proven interventions where appropriate. In this way it can be seen to impact in a very positive way on children's outcomes. High quality visits and visitors to the school enhance the curriculum and provide opportunities for Writing for a purpose. Children have opportunities to share their learning with each other, their parents and carers and other learners through school-based and external exhibitions, performances, competitions and events involving other schools. Developing their independence and motivation as learners and their sense of responsibility as future citizens is at the heart of all our teaching and learning. As a result, we have a community of enthusiastic writers who enjoy showcasing their developing literacy knowledge and skills. They are confident to take risks in their writing, and love to discuss and share their ideas.

### **Early Writing at Oxbridge Lane Primary School**

Writing down ideas fluently depends on effective transcription: that is, spelling quickly and accurately through knowing the relationship between sounds and letters (phonics) and understanding the morphology (word structure) and orthography (spelling structure) of words. This understanding begins in EYFS through daily, high quality phonics lessons.

In the Foundation Stage, children are encouraged to attempt their own emergent writing and their efforts are valued and celebrated. As their phonic knowledge increases, so does their ability to write independently. At the same time, their knowledge of key words is supported through reading and writing activities, including shared reading and writing. Legible letter formation is explicitly taught and modelled on a daily basis. A wide variety of opportunities are provided for children to engage in writing activities and independently apply their phonic skills through role play, creative activities, computing and the outdoor area.

### **Spelling Rules/CEW**

- Appropriate Common Exception Words and High Frequency Words will be identified and taught within the unit. These words will be incorporated into modelled and shared writing with the expectation that pupils will use them correctly within their own independent writing.
- A Spelling Rule and associated spellings will be taught alongside the unit also. These words will be incorporated into modelled and shared writing with the expectation that pupils will also use them correctly within their own independent writing.
- Spelling tests will take place weekly of taught spelling rule and termly of the common exception words.

## **Re-drafting/Editing**

Editing and Redrafting are considered essential elements of the writing process.

- Editing will often have a focus on syntax, spelling and basic punctuation; whereas, redrafting will have a more prominent focus around the vocab, composition and cohesion of the piece.
- Both of these elements need modelled to children frequently in order for children to observe expert writers improving their own work.
- Progression in editing and refining work document

## **Publication**

We believe that writing should be purposeful and children should have a final product in their writing that they take pride in.

- At the beginning of the unit, an example of the purpose of their writing will be shared with the class and placed on display for children to refer to throughout the unit.
- Every half term, children will have a final piece written in their publication book. Some pieces may be used for projects or display work for a short amount of time.

## **Sequencing**

- The sequencing of these elements will vary dependent on the year group, genre and ongoing assessment and there is no preferred sequence, leaving this to the discretion of the class teacher. There is, however, an expectation that all units will start with hook and immersion and will end with publication.

## **Writing Year Group Expectations**

KS1

### Daily Steps

#### Dictation (twice weekly)

Children are given a sentence verbally to record, building up to English books. The sentence will incorporate high frequency words, phonics-linked spellings and an age-appropriate range of punctuation. Dictation sentences will be responsive to the needs of children.

#### Letter Formation / Handwriting

Y1 – Daily letter formation (pre-cursive), additionally taught twice a week

Y2 – Daily letter formation (pre-cursive), additionally taught twice a week

(Cursive to be taught to GDS pupils or when approved by SLT)

#### Spelling

Spelling is taught daily, through Jolly Phonics sessions and the whole school spelling programme

KS2

### Daily Steps

#### Dictation (twice weekly)

Children are given a sentence verbally to record in English books. The sentence will incorporate high frequency words, year group spellings and an age-appropriate range of punctuation. Dictation sentences will be responsive to the needs of children.

#### Handwriting

##### Cursive handwriting

LKS2: Two explicit lessons per week

UKS2: Ongoing teaching through Writing lessons, plus intervention where required.

#### Spelling - Daily

Spelling is taught daily, through the whole school spelling programme

**Traditional Tales Progression** – Traditional Tales will be a thread throughout school. Children will be exposed to them initially in Early Years and Year 1, then revisited from Year 2 to Year 6. These can be used within reading lessons or just as a class read.

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
<b>Nursery</b>	The Gingerbread Man	Little Red Riding Hood	Goldilocks and the Three Bears	Jack and the Beanstalk	Little Red Hen	The Princess and the Pea
<b>Reception</b>	Hansel and Gretel	The Tortoise and the Hare	The Three Little Pigs	The Ugly Duckling	The Enormous Turnip	The Pied Piper
<b>Year 1</b>	Rumpelstiltskin	Stone Soup	Three Billy Goats Gruff	Frog Prince	Chicken Little	Rapunzel
<b>Year 2</b>		The Gingerbread Man		Little Red Riding Hood		Goldilocks and the Three Bears
<b>Year 3</b>		Jack and the Beanstalk		Little Red Hen		The Princess and the Pea
<b>Year 4</b>		Hansel and Gretel		The Tortoise and the Hare		The Three Little Pigs
<b>Year 5</b>		The Ugly Duckling		The Enormous Turnip		The Pied Piper
<b>Year 6</b>		Rumpelstiltskin		Three Billy Goats Gruff		Rapunzel

### Assessing Writing

Teachers draw upon observations and continuous assessment to ensure children are stretched and challenged and to identify those children who may need additional support. Formative assessment of Writing is completed through teachers' daily feedback to inform future planning. Teachers use the children's everyday writing and adapt models and input to meet their current needs. Teachers also complete a Reflecting on Unit outcomes document after each half termly unit, to identify next steps and the subsequent units are amended to include these focuses. Daily sentence accuracy work is carefully monitored to ensure children are constructing sentences both coherently and accurately. Termly staff meetings allow for whole school moderation of writing to deepen understanding of standards.

Subject leaders will analyse termly data and address areas for curriculum development. Children's attainment, progress and barriers to learning will be discussed in half termly Pupil Progress Meetings with senior leaders and clear actions to work on will be planned together, to support pupils and staff in closing gaps.