



# Writing in Year 1



A survey by the [National Literacy Trust](#) found that children who **enjoy** writing are **seven times more likely** to write **above** the expected level for their age, and children who **dislike** writing are **eight times more likely** to write **below** it. We aim to create caring, positive, passionate environments in which children identify as writers and view writing as a pleasurable activity. As an infant school, we understand the need to **balance the teaching of transcription and compositional skills**. We create opportunities for children to experience and **enjoy the craft of writing** and carefully plan 'writing workshops' so that children experience the **pleasure and satisfaction** of 'publishing' their written work for an audience [[Writing 4Pleasure](#)].

## Phonics and Spelling

Phonics is the **primary way to teach spelling** [[The Writing Framework](#)] and **systematically and explicitly** teaches pupils a comprehensive set of **sound-letter relationships for spelling** [[EEF Recommendation 3](#)]. We are proud to have developed our own bespoke **Systematic Synthetic Phonics Programme** which meets the [DfE's Essential Core Criteria](#). A full [Parent Guide](#) outlining the Phases in our programme is available on our website, along with Phase specific videos on [Tapestry](#).

In phonics lessons and written activities across the curriculum, children are given tasks that allow them to **practise and apply the spellings they have been taught** [[The Writing Framework](#)]. Children are encouraged to independently access resources such as [sound mats](#) to support their spelling. 'Tricky words' are explicitly revised and taught each week and the use of songs, rhymes and mnemonics enable children to **identify the tricky part of the word** and support recall and retention of spelling [[The Writing Framework](#)].

**Phase 5**, where children learn that the same sound can be spelled in a variety of ways, is a key focus. Children explore where the **different spellings usually 'fit'** within a word and practise spelling through **dictation** in lessons and in their weekly 'Phonics Challenges'. [[The Writing Framework](#)].

## Grammar, Punctuation and Vocabulary

In order to **articulate** and **structure** their ideas, children have to understand how to **construct sentences**. Our [core books](#) expose children to different structures and enable teachers to draw attention to how sentences are constructed. Children practise **sentence-level composition** orally, using the 'think it, say it, write it' approach. They are taught to distinguish between the 'language of **speech and writing**' and are provided with **sentence stems and frames** to support sentence structure. [[The Writing Framework](#)]. Spacing between words and simple punctuation is explicitly taught, modelled and then children are given opportunities to apply this **in context**.

Learning Organisers for foundation subjects contain **colour-coded 'tiered vocabulary'** specific to that subject/curriculum topic. This is shared in context with pupils to further support them to develop a **broad and deep vocabulary** and **communicate accurately, concisely and creatively** [[The Writing Framework](#)]. **Communication boards** with widge symbols are used in all subjects to ensure 'green' words are understood and used correctly by all learners, including those with SEN and EAL. These are used effectively during lessons and for **pre-teaching** interventions [[EEF Recommendation 8](#)].

## Handwriting

Effective teaching of handwriting **reduces children's cognitive load**. We aim to build **fluency** in handwriting skills to the point that they become **automated** [[EEF Recommendation 6](#)]. **Physical readiness** to write is considered and supported and 'ready to write' **routes** are established [[The Writing Framework](#)]. Children practise correct formation in **letter families** thereby developing a **consistent style** by paying attention to **how letters in each family are formed** [[The Writing Framework](#)]. Correction of letter and number formation takes place on an individual basis alongside **explicit teaching** to ensure letters are of a **regular shape and size** and that they are **spaced** correctly. Children are encouraged to **recall and apply letter formation phrases** and **number formation rhymes**.

## Writing Workshops

We apply the **principles of world-class writing teaching**, alongside our [school values](#) in order to structure our writing workshops [[Writing 4Pleasure](#)]. Children are taught that everyone can be an **independent** writer and that we always read, share and talk about writing with **kindness** and **respect**. Writing projects are designed with children's interests in mind, so they care about **what** and **why** they are writing, and know **who they are writing for**.

Workshops link to our [core books](#) and, after 'reading the text as a writer' (exploring writing techniques that they would like to use in their own writing) children are supported to complete a 'GAP' table, detailing the **genre**, **audience** and **purpose** of writing. Children are given time to **generate ideas** and **plan** their writing, in a variety of ways: talking to their peers, drawing, pictures, creating mind maps and listing key vocabulary. This helps them to begin to sequence their ideas.

Children are praised for showing **resilience** as they **draft** their writing and practise applying their knowledge of grammar, spelling and punctuation. With the support of their teacher, they are encouraged to take **responsibility** to meet writing goals and have opportunities to discussing their writing with others [[EEF Recommendation 5](#)]. Finally children apply their handwriting skills in a **meaningful context**: 'publishing' their final project, so it is 'reader ready' and they are proud to share it with their intended audience.