

Writing at Gonville

Transcription (spelling and handwriting) and composition (structuring ideas into speech and writing) are the two dimensions to writing. Teachers at Gonville Academy ensure that teaching incorporates both with an opportunity for children to plan, revise and edit their writing. Children are also taught the vocabulary required to bolster their writing and spoken language. This is an expectation across all key stages at Gonville.

At Gonville Academy, we use Success for All from Year 1-6 which involves engaging with an exciting age-related book and producing in-depth writing based on it. In addition to this, writing is taught through our range of diverse curriculum topics.

EYFS

Children begin to use their phonics knowledge to write words that match their spoken sound in Early Years. They are expected to be able to write simple sentences that can be read by themselves as well as others. Teachers ensure the learning environment is engaging and stimulating for young children, allowing opportunities to engage with letters and sounds and mark making. In Nursery, children are encouraged to mark make daily using gross and fine motor skills. In Reception, children have daily Write Away sessions in which they are encouraged to write in simple sentences.

Key Stage 1

Children develop the stamina to write narratives, recount real life events (in diaries and newspapers) and poetry, in KS1. Children are given the opportunity to think about what they are going to write by planning or saying their sentences aloud first. Children are also encouraged to write down key words including new vocabulary and vocabulary from their reading sessions to help them structure sentences. Teachers provide regular opportunities for children to re-read their work, to check it makes sense and to edit what they have written. SfA (which takes place every day each week) allow numerous opportunities for these strategies.

Key Stage 2

As with reading, by the end of KS2 children's writing is expected to be fluent and autonomous. Children are taught to plan, draft, evaluate and edit their writing by identifying the audience and purpose for writing, selecting the appropriate grammar and vocabulary and by using the correct organizational and presentational devices to engage and guide the reader. In KS2 children produce writing based on books from Success for All, as well as linking writing to their topic.

Spellings

EYFS

In Early Years, children have an opportunity to practise green and red (tricky) words.

Key Stage 1 and 2

Children are taught stage related spellings which they learn during SFA lessons; this is assessed weekly by discrete spelling tests in class, as well as within their weekly independent writing. In addition to this, children are expected to know how to spell the age-related common exception words; this assessed through independent writing. By the end of KS2, teachers ensure that children show a sound understanding of how to spell words using a variety of advanced spelling rules.

Handwriting

In Early Years, pupils are encouraged to develop their fine motor skills through mark making. By Reception, pupils are taught to form letters accurately and cursive writing is modelled by the teacher. The expectation by the end of Year 1 is that children begin to form their letters in cursive style and this is developed through to Year 2 where children use cursive handwriting more confidently. Teachers ensure that handwriting is modelled at least twice a week in years 1 - 5. By the end of KS2, pupils are expected to write legibly, fluently and with increasing speed using pens.

Grammar

Grammar lessons are taught discretely once a week in Years 1 and 2, increasing to twice per week in Years 3-6. In addition, grammar elements for particular genres are taught as part of the Success for All Writing dimension of the programme. Children are then expected to incorporate grammatical teaching, specific and appropriate to genre into their writing.