

How can I support my child in developing their Writing Skills at home?

Allow your child to access as many different types of writing as possible e.g. fiction novels/ non fiction novels/ newspaper/magazines/leaflets/letters/postcards etc. Here are some suggestions which you could try at home:

- 1. Let children see you writing notes, cards or letters to friends or Relatives, a shopping list, an article for a magazine or maybe a story or poem for them to enjoy.
- 2. Let your children see that you are not perfect! Making changes and editing what you write is a natural part of writing.
- 3. Encourage your child to write their own Christmas cards, thank you letters, cards or e-mails to friends or relatives, invitations to a party, or a list of things they need to take on holiday etc.
- 4. Play word-building games like Boggle or Scrabble.
- 5. Games like 'Guess Who' can also develop their descriptive vocabulary.
- 6. Create silly sentences or tongue twisters using alliteration.
- 7. You could create a special writing corner or area.
- 8. Encourage your child to rehearse their sentence out loud before they write it down.
- 9. Make up fun ways to remember how to spell a word eg. Big Elephants Can Always Understand Small Elephants = because. 10. Help your child write a letter to your child's favourite author.





WRITING Information for Parents & Guardians





How is Writing Taught in Class?

In order for Pupils to gain a better and deeper understanding of each genre of Writing that they encounter, they must have the opportunity to experience each of the following steps:

Text Analysis

Pupils to first have the opportunity to access a variety of piece of writing from this genre to gain a good understanding of how they generally look, sound, are set out etc.



Key Features

Pupils should take part in lessons focusing on developing each of the Key Features which must be included in each particular genre. Pupils are given a checklist with these features to ensure they include them in their own pieces of writing.



Writing Structure - Skeleton Outline

Pupils should have the opportunity to draft a skeleton outline of how each piece of writing should be structured and presented.



Plan & Write Chapter

Pupils should complete a plan for each piece prior to writing. Pupils should then be given the opportunity to bring all of the above features and skills they have developed together in their own piece of writing.



Edit & Up-level

Pupils should reflect on each piece of writing using their Checklist. They should also check through their use of VCOP and be encouraged to up-level the content to make it even better.



Redraft

Pupils should redraft their final copy of each piece of Writing.





Pupils are encouraged to use a high standard of VCOP (Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers &

Punctuation) in their Writing, and also complete various tasks in class to support their development in each of these four areas.

How do we Assess Writing?

We assess the pupils' progress in writing through marking and giving feedback on pupils' weekly Writing task.

Each term, we also assess a piece of unassisted written work completed by each child to monitor their progress in line with Curriculum for Excellence.

We use the Scottish Criterion scale which has been lifted straight from the 'Write to the Top' Writing scheme.

Pupil work is individually assessed within the appropriate level of Curriculum for Excellence and highlights areas for improvement for each child.

We then give pupils feedback based on the assessment so both pupil and Teacher are aware of both the strengths and development areas to take forward in the new term.

How does it all link to Curriculum for Excellence?

Pupils work through Curriculum for Excellence outcomes and experiences for Writing at a level appropriate to their own stage of development. The outcomes and experiences are based upon the following four areas.

- Enjoyment and Choice
- -Tools for Writing
- -Organising and using Information
- -Creating Texts

Find out more about the teaching and development of writing

www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/literacy_across_learning_princip les practice

