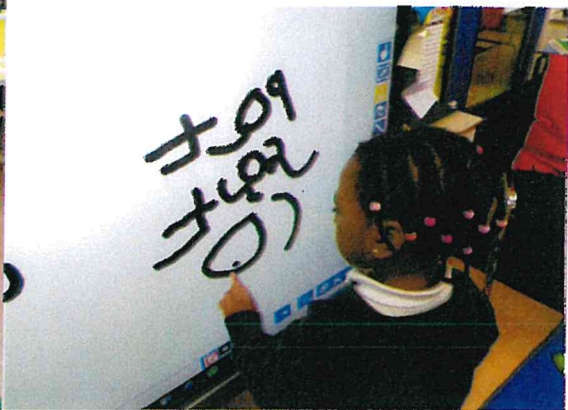


Writing at Our Lady and St Edward's



The Value of Literacy

Literacy is used in our everyday lives, from writing notes and sending messages to simply reading information and understanding it. Reading and Writing with precision and accuracy is a vital life skill for all our children.

Teaching Literacy

The teaching of Literacy at Our lady and St Edward's is done through the following aspects:

Speaking and Listening - we encourage children to express an opinion, listen to others and use debating skills as well as learning to speak fluently and grammatically correct.

Reading - focussing on word recognition, understanding text and discussing inference.

Writing - putting together pieces of writing based on high quality texts and interesting experiences which show case our learning and skills.

Spelling - use of phonics and knowledge of spelling patterns to write words and sentences with precision.

Punctuation and Grammar - learning about words and sentences and the way in which they are put together.

Vocabulary - developing the range of words which the children use in their speech and their writing.

Literacy at Our Lady and St Edward's

We aim to:

- Nurture a love of reading for pleasure in our children so that they will keep this skill and enjoyment throughout their lives.
- Aid the children in developing fluent skills in oracy in order for them to express an opinion and debate respectfully with others.
- Support the children in becoming fluent in grammar and punctuation so that they will write with precision and accuracy.
- Enable our children to use strategies to spell words through the use of phonics and spelling patterns.
- We aim to promote children's creativity through their writing by exposing them to a range of high quality texts.
- To broaden the vocabulary used by the children so that they can express themselves clearly.
- We aim to support children to make progress. Children will be supported through small group work where necessary to help them understand the areas covered before moving on to a new concept. This ensures that they do not have gaps in their learning as they move through school and the rest of their lives. We identify children early on who need extra support and provision is made in the day to give this extra support to their reading and comprehension.

The Value of Writing

Much of the time, we express ourselves by using the written word, from emails and application forms to formal reports and letters. Being able to write fluently in a way in which they can be understood is a vital skill for our children to possess.



Teaching of Writing

Much of our knowledge of writing comes from what we have read. Teachers choose high quality texts that are linked to their over-riding topic as an example of how authors write well. They include writing from a wide variety of genres. Children analyse this work and look at key vocabulary that the author has used to show its effectiveness and look at how its structured.

We use a three- week literacy plan which enables the children to build up their knowledge and skills to build up to a final piece of writing at the end of the third week. Teachers will work with the children on shared writing tasks where the teachers acts as the scribe for the children's ideas and demonstrates the thoughts going the head of a writer about the choices they make over the words, grammar and punctuation. Children are actively encouraged to edit their work.

Writing is used as an opportunity for children to enhance their vocabulary through the rich variety of texts we provide as a base and through our grammar and punctuation lessons taught.





The value of Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG).

The correct use of spelling, punctuation and grammar makes a child's work accurate and helps it to showcase their potential. When older, the use of this on application letters and CVs will really set them apart from the crowd and enhance their opportunities.



SPaG at Our Lady and St Edward's

Teaching Strategies

Phonics- Phonics are taught primarily to our younger children daily using **Letters and Sounds Revised** program. Children are tested at the end of Year 1 by the National Phonics Assessment. Children who do not meet the expected standard are continued to be taught phonics so that they do not have gaps as they progress through school.

Spelling - Spellings are given out weekly to all children from Year 1 - Year 6. These follow the Letters and Sounds scheme in Key Stage 1 and Spelling Shed scheme in Key Stage 2. Daily lessons introduce the words and patterns to the children. Words are looked at through the syllables they contain and children are taught to use these and spelling rules to help them to spell similar words. Words are taken home to be practised and tested in class.

Punctuation and Grammar - Different elements of punctuation and grammar are taught weekly. Children are then helped and encouraged to use this knowledge in their independent writing.