



Curriculum Rationale - Writing

Let your light shine as an author



Writing Intent

For a child, the ability to communicate in written form underpins all other learning and is a vital step in enabling children to become life-long learners. At St James's we prioritise written literacy as a key skill for all children to secure at a young age. Our writing curriculum aims to be engaging and inspiring, motivating children to write for a variety of purposes, always with their reader in mind. Our text-driven writing curriculum provides children with high quality models for writing and ensures a wide range of reading experiences for all. Our ambitious texts expose children to a wide range of vocabulary as well as being chosen to enrich our curriculum with diversity and representation.

Big ideas in our Writing curriculum

- ✓ Text driven English units
- ✓ 5 Rs – Read and Explore it, Rip it, Rehearse it, Write it, Review and Edit it
- ✓ Writing with purpose and audience: children learn to communicate through their writing for a range of different purposes
- ✓ Writing as a reader: engagement of the reader is at the heart of our writing curriculum and reading and writing are seen as two sides of the same
- ✓ Oracy: children learn to speak their ideas aloud before structuring these into sentences. Talk 4 Writing principles underpin our writing sequences
- ✓ Drama: children gain experiences through use of drama
- ✓ Kinetic Letters: gross and fine motor skills developed from preschool through to Year 6
- ✓ Spelling Fridays – LW and NNS woven through writing sequences and in discrete spelling lessons

Links with other areas of the curriculum

- ✓ Everybody reads (reading across the curriculum)
- ✓ British Values explored through key texts (mutual tolerance, respectful attitudes, rule of law, individual liberty and democracy)
- ✓ School Values: links to protagonist choices in texts
- ✓ Maths e.g. reading scales, generating and interpreting data.
- ✓ Science links –e.g. space writing outcome Year 6, nocturnal animal NC report Year 2,
- ✓ Geography links – e.g. rainforest Year 5



Our school vision through Writing

Let your light shine to reach your God-given potential.

- ✓ Carefully planned progression of knowledge
- ✓ Inclusion for all
- ✓ Adaptive teaching
- ✓ Stretch activities to deepen understanding
- ✓ Effective use of teacher AfL

Let your light shine courageously

- ✓ Wide range of representation in authors chosen
- ✓ Have-a-go strategy for spelling for independence and growth mindset
- ✓ Perseverance and resilience through extended writing cycles

Let your light shine as a beacon of hope

- ✓ World issues explored through ambitious texts
- ✓ Stereotypes avoided
- ✓ Wide range of representation

Let your light shine - be the best you can be!

Spirituality in Writing

- Experiencing the world through the eyes of a reader
- Awe and wonder through the beauty of language – how can I affect others?
- Imagination fostered through learning journey including drama and role play
- Children are encouraged to bring their own perspective to every writing task
- Sense of self and identify through first person accounts
- Awareness of others - empathy

