

St. Cuthbert's Catholic  
Primary School



Writing Curriculum Aims

# St Cuthbert's Primary School

## Writing

### Curriculum Aims

2023 - 2024

At St Cuthbert's we aim to develop writers with:

- The necessary skills and knowledge to meet and exceed the National Curriculum expectations in writing.
- A systematic phonics approach so that they can apply these skills in their writing
- Opportunities to write in a wide range of genres for different audiences and purposes.
- Opportunities to use a wide range of features in order to develop their own writing style alongside high standards of presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- A passion for writing together with a high level of English knowledge and skills that they can apply in a variety of subjects and situations.

### **Curriculum Intent**

At St Cuthbert's we understand that writing is an essential part of the wider curriculum. We are ambitious about what we want children to achieve and we strive to create exciting and stimulating writing experiences and opportunities for all children.

### **Implementation**

At St Cuthbert's in EYFS and Key Stage One we have based our approach using 'The Write Stuff' by Jane Considine in order to bring clarity to the mechanics of writing. The Write Stuff follows a method called 'Sentence Stacking', which refers to the idea that sentences are stacked together chronologically and organised to engage children with short, intensive moments of learning that they can then immediately apply to their own writing. An individual lesson is based on a sentence model, broken into 3 learning chunks. Each learning chunk has 3 sections:

- **Initiate section** – a stimulus to capture the children's imagination and set up a sentence.
- **Model section** – the teacher models a sentence that outlines clear writing features and techniques.
- **Enable section** – the children write their sentences following the model.

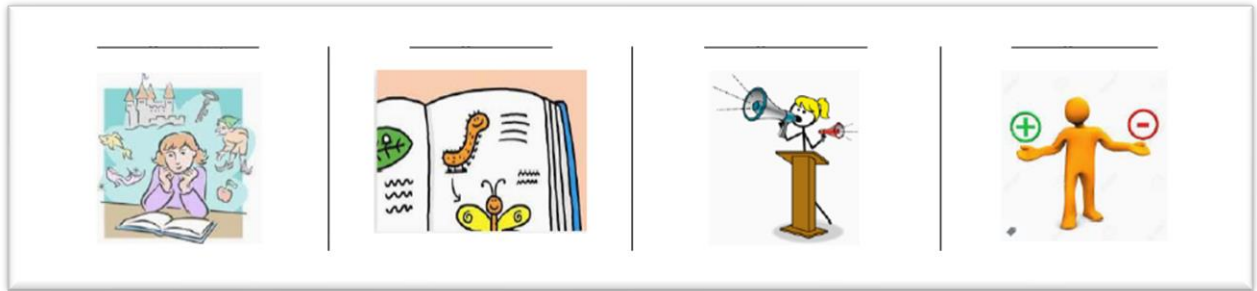
Children are challenged to 'Deepen the Moment' which requires them to independently draw upon previously learnt skills and apply them to their writing during that chunk.

The Write Stuff uses three essential components to support children in becoming confident and independent writers capable of producing great writing.

The three zones of writing are:

**IDEAS – THE FANTASTICS** uses a child friendly acronym to represent the nine idea lenses through which children can craft their ideas.

**TOOLS – THE GRAMMARTISTICS** – the grammar rules of our language system and an accessible way to target weaknesses in children's grammatical and linguistic structures.



**TECHNIQUES – THE BOOMTASTICS** – which helps children capture 10 ways of adding drama and poetic devices to writing in a vivid visual.

At Key Stage 2 writing is taught in meaningful and effective contexts using high-quality texts and experiences as a hook into their learning. The coverage of writing considers the main purposes for writing:

Coverage has been designed to ensure that children cover a range of different genres and also gives them the opportunity to revisit those genres and build upon their understanding of features.

Writing is taught using a clear sequence of steps allowing teachers to cover many of the objectives.

The sequence of steps are:

- **HOOK** – either through a high-quality text, mystery object, a scene, a number of clues. A hook will capture their imagination and provide a purpose and audience for their writing.
- **DECONSTRUCT** – children will be exposed to a variety of WAGOLLs (What A Good One Looks Like). They will identify features of the specific genres including language and grammar features. The children will begin to gather content and build a checklist for their own writing.
- **PLANNING** – using the content they have gathered together with the key features of the genre they will begin to plan a piece of extended writing for a specific purpose and audience. This will often take place over a number of lessons to allow children to ‘Deepen the Moment’ and build on prior learning, articulate their ideas for writing using elements of ‘Talk for Writing’ and engage in short bursts of writing, creating vocabulary banks.
- **SHARED WRITING** –using teacher led modelled writing, children will be guided and supported in writing their first draft. Throughout this, the children will be given opportunities to evaluate, self and peer assess their writing.
- **EDIT & IMPROVE** – opportunities for children to up-level and improve their work, focussing on spelling, grammar and punctuation in the editing stage.
- **PUBLISH** – children will re-draft their work, presenting it in an imaginative way for their writing folder or for display and sharing it with the desired audience.

## Short Burst Writing

Our short burst writing offers regular opportunities for children to practice and reinforce their writing skills in shorter and more focused tasks. It also allows aspects of the teaching cycle to be revisited and consolidated as children progress through school and helps children to develop stamina and independence in their approach to writing.

### Impact

At St Cuthbert's our children will be equipped with a strong command of the written word alongside a wide and varied vocabulary which they can use across the curriculum, using accurate spelling and correct grammar. Children will be able to write clearly, coherently and accurately, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences.

