

IMPROVING WRITING



Reading for pleasure

A recent study by the Institute of Education found that:

- Children who read for pleasure are **LIKELY TO DO SIGNIFICANTLY BETTER AT SCHOOL** than their peers
- Reading for pleasure has the **STRONGEST EFFECT ON CHILDREN'S VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT**, but the impact on spelling and maths is also significant.

The new curriculum states: Pupils should develop their love of literature through widespread reading for enjoyment'.

Ways to Promote Reading

- Try to make a range of reading material available - books, newspapers and magazines.
- Engage your child in conversation about their reading.
- Read extracts from newspapers and magazines to your child and encourage them to read to you, little and often is most effective, e.g. 15-20 minutes a night.
- Suggest book tokens, or books as suitable gifts.
- Join the local library.

What is expected in KS3?

READING

- understand increasingly challenging texts through learning new vocabulary, relating it explicitly to known vocabulary and understanding it with the help of context and dictionaries
- making inferences and referring to evidence in the text
- checking their understanding to make sure that what they have read makes sense

Writing

Pupils should be taught to:

- write accurately, fluently, effectively and at length for pleasure and information through writing for a wide range of purposes and audiences
- plan, draft, edit and proof-read through amending the vocabulary, grammar and structure of their writing to improve its coherence and overall effectiveness
- paying attention to accurate grammar, punctuation and spelling.

The Writing Process

- Generate ideas.
- Select the appropriate content.
- Organise the piece of writing effectively.
- Decide on the structure of your sentences.
- Ensure the spelling and punctuation is accurate.
- Proof read and edit.
- Produce a final copy.

How we teach writing

Text type Audience Purpose

Read examples and identify the key features.

List the ingredients.

Model how to write our own.

Shared Writing –jointly compose a paragraph

Improve a text

Independent writing

Editing and redrafting

Charity campaign advertisements and leaflets persuade you to support them by using emotive language: words that provoke a reaction and make you *feel* something, e.g. anger, pity, sympathy, hope.



Which sentence is the most emotive?

1. Will you give £2 a month to help a poor animal like Smitty?
2. Will you give £2 a month to save an innocent puppy like Smitty?

Why is **puppy** a more emotive noun than **dog**?

Why is **save** a more emotive verb than **help**?

Why is **innocent** a more emotive adjective than **poor**?

Can you think of alternatives for the adjective **innocent** and for the verb **to save**?

How can I help my child?

- Discuss the task with your child. Brainstorm ideas and jot these down.
- Focus on creativity. If your child is to succeed as a creative writer, they must learn how to experiment, take risks, and think outside the box.

How can I help my child?

At the initial drafting stage, don't discourage your child's creativity by harping on their spelling, grammar, or punctuation. Later, ask them to carefully check their work. If any mistakes remain, gently correct these mechanical errors, but do not make your child feel like they have failed a homework assignment. Instead, praise their creativity and talk to them about their ideas.

How can I help my child?

When you can, write and read along with your child. Be a model reader and writer for your child. Demonstrate to them that reading and writing are valuable and fun activities. The more your child sees you reading and writing, the more likely they will be to continue the practice on their own.

READ AS A WRITER, WRITE AS A READER.