

Introduction

The aim of this leaflet is to provide you with information about how your child is taught writing at school and to allow you to support your child at home with this.

In Class

In school all children are taught writing in a variety of ways and across a variety of contexts, linked to the on going learning in the school.

Children are given opportunities to write on a daily basis, as well as a weekly 'taught' lesson. Throughout the week there are also opportunities to write linked to interdisciplinary learning.

Daily Writing

Daily writing tasks are often linked to the novel the children are currently reading. It may also be linked to spelling, school events or current affairs. This daily writing could be in a variety of forms including, paragraphs, note taking, visual aids, lists etc. Daily writing should involve aspects of composition, grammar and punctuation or be used for a further purpose.

Using Metalinguistics

RO - Read On
RW - Read Back
PW - Particular Word
PD - Partner Discussion
TD - Teacher Discussion
RW - Replace Word
D - Dictionary

2
Comprehension Strategy

Example 1:
Words I need to clarify to aid my understanding (minimum four words)
ping pg 20
ambled pg 21
perished pg 28

Example 2:
Steps I have taken to clarify my understanding
RO - jealous, he was feeling jealous
PD - ping looks a bit like pain.
RW - he was inside his head!
RO - out into his run
PD - he was walking out from his run but he was quite slow
RW - wandered

Example 3:
I have checked the meaning and now I can share it. In the context, I think this word means...
He was jealous they had a dog he worried out so much it almost hurt him to see them getting on.
Danni wandered out into the sun, not really bothering very much about anything.
Elliot kept on asking until he got the answer he needed to know.

The Taught Writing Lesson

During the 'Taught' writing lesson children are taught the specific features and vocabulary for writing across a number of genres. Normally the children would cover three genres per term.

At first level there are six genres: Narrative, Persuasive, Explanation, Report, Recount and Instructional.

At second level there are seven genres: Narrative, Persuasive, Explanation, Report, Recount, Instructional and Discursive.

During these lessons the children are given the chance to explore a 'model' text and break it down into the features and vocabulary, which make it a good model of the genre.

Then using specific genre features and success criteria the children are asked to write their own text and evaluate their success against the criteria. Children will also provide and receive feedback from their peers and class teacher.

Information Report – First Level Genre Features:

- Understand the Purpose and Audience (who and why they are writing)
- A title to interest the reader
- A short opening introductory paragraph which tells what the report is about
- Using your notes, group the facts together and decide how your report will be organised
- Give each section of the report a subheading and use your notes to write a short paragraph (remember, no thoughts, feelings or I/We)
- Try to have 3 sections to the report
- A short paragraph to bring the report to an end
- Use a labelled picture or diagram to give more information to the reader

Writing Across the Curriculum

Interdisciplinary learning is an important element in the successful implementation of Curriculum for Excellence. It is learning which makes meaningful connections between different aspects of the school's curriculum. The aim of the writing programme is that by focussing on interdisciplinary learning in their writing, children and teachers will be enabled to make connections between the 'taught' writing skills and their usefulness in different curricular areas.

At Home

You could talk to your child about what genre they are working on at school and what they know about the features of that genre. When children are completing written homework tasks, you could encourage them to check that they have met their success criteria and if not encourage them to find ways to do so. Having texts at home or through visiting the library can support your child in their development of reading and writing.

Active Literacy

A Guide for Parents

Stage 4-7 Writing