

## Approach to the teaching of writing at Leyburn Primary School

At Leyburn Primary School, we actively encourage children to enjoy communicating with those around them, through speaking, listening, reading and writing. Our approach to writing aims to engage the pupils and provide them with the necessary skills and techniques needed to develop into confident and independent writers.

Wherever possible, we aim to write for real purposes: a letter to a local MP, thank you letters to helpers and for school visits, creating stories for other classes, contributing to the school newsletter or the local Leyburn Life publication.

In Early Years, a word-rich environment encourages children to see the link between the spoken and written word. Providing opportunities for early mark-making in nursery allows children to make the connection that these marks can communicate meaning. In Upper Foundation Stage, children are taught how to correctly form the written letter linked to their daily phonics.



In KS1, children read and are read to daily, using a range of high-quality texts. This allows children to see a purpose to writing and to enjoy being immersed in imagined worlds and the wonderful experiences that writing can create. Spoken language is planned for in order to support correct sentence structure and convey meaning. Daily opportunities for writing are planned across the curriculum, often linked to the children's own experiences and the world around them. The beginnings of spelling, punctuation and grammar begin to add clarity to their work.

Moving into KS2, children continue to have daily opportunities to practise and extend the skills they need to be competent and confident authors. Teaching covers a range of purposes of writing including to entertain, inform, discuss and persuade. Classrooms are word-rich and language is embraced through reading, writing, speaking and listening. Debates, hot-seating and drama allow children to experiment with language before committing to paper.

Pupils are taught how to add stylistic devices and consider their audience through more complex punctuation, grammar and vocabulary choices.

### Handwriting

Pupils are taught from EYFS how to form letters accurately with an aim of writing in a joined script by the end of Year 2. This is then practised and applied throughout KS2, allowing pupils to write with automaticity and pace and take pride in the presentation of their work.

### Spelling

At Leyburn, we follow the scheme of work from Spelling Shed. From Year 2, when phonic knowledge is secure, children will follow a systematic approach to learning spelling through the exploration of root words, prefixes and suffixes along with words from the statutory National Curriculum word lists. Any children who need to secure their knowledge of phonics will be given more personalised support for this as well as their spelling session.



Spelling is taught at least 3 times per week. The emphasis is placed on the morphology of words – learning the rules of our language. The children then learn to apply these rules to groups of words and understand the way English is constructed.