



Writing at Oak Hill

At Oak Hill, we want every child to leave us believing “I am a writer.”

We want children to enjoy putting their ideas into words and to have the confidence and skills to write clearly for different purposes. From their first conversations and early marks in Nursery to increasingly confident and independent writing in Year 4, we build children’s skills carefully, one step at a time.

It starts with talking

Becoming a good writer starts long before children are ready to write a story.

In Nursery and Reception, communication and language are at the heart of what we do. We use CUSP Communication and Language to help children build their vocabulary and develop confidence in listening, talking and sharing their ideas.

Through stories, conversations, play and their wider learning, children hear and use new words and learn to explain what they think, notice and understand. These strong foundations give children something important to say when they begin to write.

Learning to write

As children move through school, we use CUSP Writing to help them grow as writers.

Children learn how to build sentences, choose effective vocabulary and organise their ideas. They experience different types of writing and begin to understand how writers make choices depending on what they are writing and who will read it.

New learning is carefully introduced, practised and revisited so that children become increasingly confident in bringing all the different elements of writing together for themselves.

Handwriting

We want children to be able to get their ideas onto paper confidently and fluently.

We use Read Write Inc. Handwriting to teach children how to form letters correctly and, as they develop, to produce clear, fluent and legible handwriting.

From the beginning, we also teach children the physical habits that support good handwriting, including how to sit well for writing and how to hold their pencil effectively. Our pencil grip and writing position songs give children simple, memorable reminders that they can use whenever they write.

Regular practice helps these habits, alongside letter formation, to become more automatic, allowing children to concentrate on what they want to say rather than the mechanics of writing.

Spelling

Learning to spell is an important part of becoming a confident and independent writer.

Children's earliest spelling develops through Read Write Inc. Phonics. As they progress, Read Write Inc. Spelling helps children build on this knowledge, recognise spelling patterns and become increasingly accurate.

We encourage children to use what they have learned about spelling whenever they write, both in English and across the wider curriculum.

Bringing it all together

Throughout their time at Oak Hill, children learn to:

- talk about and develop their ideas
- build a rich and varied vocabulary
- write sentences that communicate clearly
- spell with increasing accuracy
- develop clear and fluent handwriting
- write for different purposes and readers
- read back and improve their work
- take pride in what they have written
- become increasingly confident and independent writers

Children also have opportunities to write across the wider curriculum, using their developing skills to communicate what they know and understand in subjects such as science, history and geography.

By the time children leave Oak Hill...

We want our Year 4 children to see themselves as writers.

We want them to have something to say and the confidence to say it. They should be able to draw on the vocabulary and knowledge they have built during their time with us, organise their thoughts, choose their words carefully and write with increasing accuracy and fluency.

Most importantly, we want children to leave Oak Hill knowing that their ideas matter and that writing gives them a powerful way to share them with others.