



**Tadpole Farm**  
CE Primary Academy

# Approach to Writing



## **Aims and objectives for writing**

At Tadpole Farm we follow the National Curriculum for all areas of learning and use the end of year expectations to assess our children. We ensure that all children have the opportunity to learn the necessary secretarial skills to meet these expectations using varied styles of writing. We recognise the importance of children learning to write legibly and with their own style. However, we do not rush children to use pencils or narrow tools until we know they are ready. We want them to develop and strengthen the muscles in their upper arms and hands and to learn the fluid movements that aid the flow of writing. We have begun a three year project (commenced September 2016), which will assess the value of introducing cursive writing in the Early Years as opposed to later in Key Stage One.

## **Curriculum coverage**

### **Handwriting**

In line with Early Years Foundation Stage and National Curriculum, children will be taught to form letters correctly from the time they pick up a pencil. Handwriting may be taught as a discrete subject but also through continuous and enhanced provision. Our approach of using Write Dance to introduce the fluid movements of writing in Early Years lends itself to cursive writing. The progression from aerial movement, through to large movements that improve gross motor and core skills then gradually getting smaller will translate well in handwriting skills. All year groups use Letter-join.co.uk to teach and support handwriting in the classroom. In the Early Years children write on a variety of media, eventually using lined paper when writing with an adult. In Key Stage One, we use guidelines on paper and in books to help the children understand the shapes and comparative sizes of different letters.

Our approach to handwriting shows a progression through the years:

Nursery-

- Write Dance
- 'Secret' writing
- Drawing
- Painting

Foundation 2-

- Write Dance
- Emergent writing
- Letter formation
- Correct pencil grip
- Tracing letters
- Simple sentence formation

KS1-

- Half an hour every day whole class discrete teaching
- Write Dance
- Handwriting in Guided reading
- Handwriting challenges/ carousel activities
- Correct letter formation in phonics: digraphs, trigraphs, tricky words- all joined up
- Cursive writing
- Small group additional practice if required
- Cursive writing moving on to joined up when individual child is ready (Year Two)

## **Writing**

We believe that our approach enables the children to be creative and develop a sense of self in their writing from an early age. It encourages children to develop their writing at their own speed on their individual learning path and allows those children with additional needs to take smaller steps in their learning. Children who write with their left hand are taught to position their piece of paper/book at an angle that enables them to write comfortably and all children are taught to develop an awareness of other writers and to ensure they each have ample space.

Children learn to write through different means in all year groups:

- Whole class teaching sessions- class discussion, modelled writing, shared writing.
- Small group adult led sessions- adult role to help construct sentence, support spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- Independent challenges- child creates own writing, applying previous learning.
- Child initiated activities- child chooses to write with no adult input.
- Sound mats, tricky word mats- always available

## **Parents**

At Tadpole Farm we actively encourage parents to be involved with their children's learning. We hold workshops throughout the year where we detail our approach to teaching and give ideas for parents to support their children. Each term the children in the early years have some form of writing in their home learning and in KS1 they have writing practice/ spellings each week. Parents have been given log in details for the letter- join website so they are able to support their children in letter formation.