



Approach to Teaching Spelling 2024-2025

At Southwick Community Primary School, we firmly believe that good spelling is an essential skill which allows the children to communicate their understanding in all curriculum subjects. In order for pupils to develop into effective and confident writers they need to develop and use a range of effective spelling strategies. By providing the children with a range of strategies, we equip them with the independence to attempt spellings before asking for adult help. We particularly want the children to develop a love of language and the confidence to spell more challenging and ambitious words. In allowing them opportunities to develop a rich and exciting vocabulary, we are enabling them to become effective communicators.

Aims and Objectives

By adopting a consistent approach to the teaching of spelling we aim for the children to develop confidence and accuracy when spelling across the curriculum. In doing so we aim to:

- Develop and teach the children to use a range of effective spelling strategies
- Encourage creativity and the use of more ambitious vocabulary in their writing
- Enable children to write independently
- Enhance proof reading and editing skills
- Encourage children to identify patterns in words and spellings.
- Promote a positive and confident attitude towards spelling
- Help children to use a range of dictionaries and spell checks effectively
- Help children recognise that spelling is a lifelong skill
- Provide equal opportunities for all pupils to achieve success in spelling

Approaches to Teaching and learning

Specific sessions following the Little Wandle phonics programme are taught every day in EYFS and Key Stage 1. In KS2 spelling is taught based upon the 2014 National Curriculum framework. Throughout Key Stage 2 some children may continue to work on Little Wandle Rapid Catch Up intervention programme as well as in smaller groups from spelling intervention.

Spelling Strategies

The teaching and learning of phonics and the correspondence between letters and their sounds underpins all of the spelling strategies taught across the school. Alongside the specific Little Wandle Phonics programme, we endeavour to teach the children a range of spelling strategies in order to appeal to a variety of learning styles. These include:

- The say and cover and write and check strategy
- Identifying syllables in words in order to break words into smaller parts
- Identifying words families e.g. smile- smiling- smiled

- Using words already known to help spell new words
- Mnemonics - making up sentences to help remember the spelling of a word
- Finding words within words
- Making links between the origin of words and their spelling (etymology)
- Using word banks and dictionaries
- Learning different spelling patterns and investigating new spelling rules
- Linking handwriting to spelling and phonics, in order to develop a visual memory to aid spelling

At Southwick Community Primary School we understand that children have different learning needs, therefore throughout the school the children will be offered a wide range of spelling activities to provide a stimulus for all learning styles. They may take the form of:

- Paired, individual, small group or whole class teaching
- Whiteboard work
- Dictionary and thesaurus activities
- Audio visual activities (Video, DVD, On-line)
- Writing experiences through play.
- Word games, word searches, crosswords, puzzles
- Specific homework activities
- Investigative work
- Editing and re-drafting work
- Creating word banks linked to topic work or high frequency words
- Word play activities
- Action rhymes and songs
- Creative work

Resources

To enable all children to develop the range of strategies taught, classrooms will be well equipped to support the different activities and learning styles. Resources may include:

- Whiteboard and pens, ICT, spelling games. Magnetic letters, word banks (including cross curricular words as well as high frequency words), word cards, thesauruses, dictionaries, picture dictionaries, wall charts and vocabulary walls.

Handwriting and Spelling

Links between handwriting, phonics and spelling are also important. The regular practice of letter patterns and the copying of high frequency words helps develop good visual and writing habits. By copying and tracing whole words and linking their handwriting to patterns learnt in Letters and Sounds, the children will develop a good motor memory which will aid independent writing and spelling.

Home/ School links

Children will be sent home spellings to learn. Southwick Community Primary School recognises that parents have an active part to play in all aspects of their children's learning.

SEN

Some children will continue to find these spelling strategies difficult to use effectively and will need additional support beyond differentiated classroom activities. TAs may lead additional multi-sensory spelling activities involving small groups or with individuals. Class teachers will liaise with the SENCO when considering the specific needs of some children. Specific Targets will be included in Educational Health Plans.

Equal Opportunities

All children will have an equal opportunity to work within this policy area. Account will be taken of specific needs and where appropriate support will be accessed through the special needs policy.

Assessment

Regular monitoring and work scrutiny will take place by teachers, Phase Leaders SLT. In Key stage 1 and Key Stage 2 weekly spellings will be sent home to learn and will be checked each week in class. Teachers will feed back to the children through regular written or verbal comments and individual targets may be given when appropriate. As part of the end of Key Stage 2 testing, the children in Year 6 will undertake the Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar test.

Roles and Responsibilities

This policy has been developed through consultation with staff, subject leader, head teacher and governing body. The Head teacher, Senior Leadership team and subject leader will monitor and evaluate the work achieved. The leader will identify areas for development, resource needs and moderate standards across the school.

Reviewing the Policy

The policy will be reviewed September 2025 and annually thereafter.