

Guide to Writing

Writing is a major part of the curriculum and along with reading, listening and talking, makes a significant contribution to the development of children as thinkers and learners. Writing involves a set of complex skills that will not develop without structured teaching and practice. At Great Leighs Primary School we use a range of approaches to teach writing. The Literacy Evolve Scheme gives teachers a range of texts to read as a class and learn to write different text types from. We also use Pie Corbett's ideas of Talk for Writing, which again encourages children to learn texts and use these ideas in their writing. This also involves lots of fun games to boost children's vocabulary and ability to generate ideas. We aim for children to become confident, independent writers, who consider all areas of writing including: **V**ocabulary, **C**onnectives, **O**peners (for sentences) and **P**unctuation (VCOP).

What is V.C.O.P.?

V.C.O.P. are the four core areas we use to teach writing. The letters stand for:

[Vocabulary](#)

[Connectives](#)

[Openers](#)

[Punctuation](#)

Spelling and Handwriting

In school children are always encouraged to use ambitious words, even if they are unsure of how to spell them. We would rather they used a more difficult word in their writing, spelt incorrectly, than replace it with a simpler, more boring word. We ask them to use their sounds to attempt the spelling of the words and then underline words with a dotted line, to return to and check the spelling of later on (possibly in a dictionary).

Handwriting is important; however the content of the writing is of a bigger importance. Therefore we ask children to present their work in school and their homework to the best of their ability but this is not the main priority. It is always nice however, to see that children have read through their work and made improvements to the language, punctuation and spelling, to show the steps in their thought processes. When we are focusing on handwriting children are given opportunities to present and publish their work using their learnt skills.

It is essential that a positive approach is taken to children's writing. They can easily lose confidence through criticism of their work. Always compliment the parts of their writing that are done as suggested, and then give a suggestion for further improvement.