Writing at Parkend

**Intent**

At Parkend Primary School, we believe that a quality English curriculum will develop children’s writing aptitude and inspire them to become creative and enthusiastic writers. We recognise the importance of nurturing a culture where children take pride in their writing, can write clearly and accurately and adapt their language and style for a range of contexts. We want to encourage children to be confident in the art of communicating in a variety of ways; including drama and role play.

We believe that children need to develop a secure knowledge-base in English, which follows a clear pathway of progression as they advance through the primary curriculum. A secure basis in writing is a crucial element of a high quality education and we give our children the tools they need to participate fully as a member of society.

With Writing, we intend for pupils to be able to plan, revise and evaluate their writing. To be able to do this effectively, pupils will focus on developing effective transcription and effective composition. They will also develop an awareness of the audience, purpose and context, and an increasingly wide knowledge of vocabulary and grammar. We also intend for pupils to leave school being confidently able to use fluent, legible handwriting.

Teachers at Parkend also believe it is essential for pupils to have the necessary tools to be able to use ambitious vocabulary when writing, developing an awareness of their audience. We feel it is essential to ensure pupils are taught a wide variety of words from the English language and are encouraged to speak and write in full and detailed sentences.

**Implementation**

These aims are embedded across our English lessons and the wider curriculum. We have a rigorous and well organised English curriculum that provides many opportunities for writing in different styles, audiences and for different purposes. Teachers adapt the curriculum overview as appropriate to their classes, but also ensure that cross curricular links with concurrent topic work are woven into the programme of study. Our curriculum closely follows the aims of the National Curriculum for English 2014.

The national curriculum for English aims to ensure that all pupils:

- acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage
Pride ourselves, Achieve the best we can, Curious thinkers, Everyone together
The small school with BIG ideas

- write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences
- use discussion in order to learn; they should be able to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas

We use a wide variety of quality texts and resources to motivate and inspire our children’s’ writing. We also provide a wealth of enrichment opportunities, from hosting a Governors writing competition every term, to year to running regular creative writing competitions through Young Writers (where the best of their work is published in a book they can purchase). Every year, we also participate in a local poetry contest (Micheldean Poetry Competition). This ensures that children are able to contribute to national and local competitions.

To encourage pupils to be creative and inspirational writers, we place a high emphasis on the teaching of vocabulary as part of English and other subjects in the curriculum. We utilise a dedicated ‘Vocab Lab’ in each classroom and encourage pupils to refer to this regularly. In conjunction with this, every classroom has a Learning Journey displayed, where pupils can not only refer to useful vocabulary and resources; but are able to understand why they are learning about different writing skills in English and what know they are working towards.

In addition to this, we inspire children to understand fictional characters in more depth through our annual visit to the pantomime at either Cheltenham’s Everyman Theatre or Monmouth Savoy Theatre and through drama and role play.

**Impact**
As a result we have developed young writers who enjoy showcasing their developing knowledge and skills and inspiring other pupils. Many of the children in our school speak positively about the experiences they have had in English learning.

Our attainment for writing at the end of KS1 and KS2 has greatly improved over the last year, as a result of these actions. Pupils are becoming more enthusiastic and by the time they reach Year 3, they are able to write at length and further develop their skills as they progress through the school.