

South Bersted C of E Primary School



Approach to Writing

Our Approach to Writing at South Bersted

At South Bersted, we are committed to developing confident, creative and capable writers. Our writing curriculum is carefully planned to ensure children build the skills they need year by year, while fostering enjoyment, independence and pride in their work.

A Structured and Progressive Writing Curriculum

Our writing curriculum is designed to provide clear progression from Reception through to Year 6. Children revisit and build upon key writing skills over time so they can apply them confidently across a range of genres and purposes. The skills are defined as either composition or transcription skills and are explicitly taught.

We teach a balance of both fiction and non-fiction writing, with approximately 60% fiction and 40% non-fiction across the school. This ensures children experience a broad range of writing opportunities including:

- Stories and narratives
- Descriptive writing
- Poetry
- Diaries and recounts
- Instructions and explanations
- Reports and information texts
- Letters and speeches
- Persuasive and balanced arguments
- Reviews and campaigns

As children move through the school, writing becomes increasingly sophisticated, with greater opportunities for independence, creativity and adapting writing for different audiences and purposes.

Building Strong Foundations for Writing

Our lessons are carefully structured to support all children in becoming successful writers. Each writing unit is broken down into manageable steps so pupils can develop confidence before completing longer pieces of writing.

Key features of our approach include:

- Explicit teaching of grammar and writing skills
- Scaffolded support to guide learning
- Collaborative discussion and oracy activities
- Short writing tasks to practise skills
- Editing and improving work with clear success criteria
- Working walls to support vocabulary and structure
- Opportunities to share and celebrate writing

This consistent structure helps children understand the writing process and develop resilience as writers.

The Importance of Talk and Collaboration

Speaking and listening plays a vital role in our writing curriculum. Children regularly work collaboratively to rehearse ideas, discuss vocabulary and orally practise sentences before writing independently.

Strategies such as:

- slow writing,
- sentence building,
- partner discussion,
- and shared writing

help children to develop confidence and improve the quality of their written work.

Spelling at South Bersted

At South Bersted, we recognise that strong spelling skills are an important part of becoming a confident writer. To support this, we use the Literacy Shed Plus *Spelling Shed* programme across the school.

Spelling Shed provides a structured and progressive approach to spelling, ensuring children build their knowledge of spelling patterns, rules and strategies year by year. Lessons are engaging, interactive and designed to help children apply spelling skills confidently within their writing.

The programme supports children through:

- explicit teaching of spelling rules and patterns,
- regular opportunities for practice and retrieval,
- investigation of word patterns and meanings,
- development of vocabulary,
- and application of spelling skills in independent writing.

Children are encouraged to practise spellings both in school and at home through interactive activities and games, helping to make spelling enjoyable and memorable.

Teachers monitor progress through weekly spelling tests

Supporting Every Learner

We believe all children can succeed in writing with the right support and challenge.

To support pupils with additional needs, including children with SEND or English as an Additional Language (EAL), we use a range of inclusive strategies and scaffolds. These include:

- visual prompts and planning templates
- sentence scaffolds
- model texts
- colourful semantics approaches to develop sentence structure
- carefully adapted tasks and resources

These strategies help children develop vocabulary, sentence construction and understanding, enabling all learners to participate successfully in writing lessons.

Developing Greater Depth Writers

We also provide challenge for children who demonstrate strong writing ability. Greater Depth writers are encouraged to:

- read widely and critically,
- analyse author techniques,
- experiment with vocabulary and style,
- write for different audiences and purposes,
- and make independent choices in their writing.

Through high-quality reading experiences, pupils learn to write with increasing maturity, creativity and precision.

Assessment and Continuous Improvement

Writing is regularly assessed across the school to ensure children are making strong progress. Teachers work together to moderate writing and ensure expectations are consistent across year groups.

Staff receive ongoing professional development to continually refine and improve the teaching of writing, ensuring all children receive high-quality writing instruction.

Encouraging a Love of Writing

Above all, we aim to inspire children to see themselves as writers. Through engaging topics, meaningful purposes for writing and opportunities for creativity, we encourage pupils to develop confidence, enjoyment and pride in their work.