

SMSC in Writing

Writing is a primary means of expression, both for personal cognitive purposes and for communicating with others. Pupils learn how to write with confidence, fluency, imagination and increasing accuracy.

In the early years, we provide many opportunities for children to write and mark make in their child-initiated play as well as during adult led activities. We encourage children to 'have a go' at writing as soon as possible and to use their phonic skills and knowledge to aid their spelling.

At Key Stage 1 and 2, the programmes of study for writing is comprised of two broad components as set out in the National Curriculum 2014:

- Transcription (spelling and handwriting)
- Composition (articulating ideas and structuring them in speech and writing)

At Upton Westlea, we teach writing through Pathways to Write. The units of work develop vocabulary, reading and writing skills through the use of high-quality and engaging texts. There is a strong focus on the progression of grammar and features across a range of writing within each year group which gives the children confidence to practise skills within a given context. The texts used across the school are drawn from a range of cultural, historical and social settings.

Our writing curriculum provides countless opportunities to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Spiritual

Our children are encouraged to understand and engage with their feelings and values through the use of the texts studied in Pathways to Write. Through drama and role play, they are shown how we can develop empathy for characters and can reflect on their own life and lives of others using diaries, letters, biographies and autobiographies. There are opportunities to extract meaning beyond literal ideas, including hidden meaning in poetry and drama.

Moral

Through a range of fiction and non-fiction stimuli used for their writing, the children at Upton Westlea can explore the motives and behaviours of both real and fictitious characters. They engage in discussions about their thoughts and opinions which they may then use in their independent writing.

Social

English lessons promote cooperation and teamwork by being able to work in groups, contributing to discussions, listening to others and learning how to debate. Our pupils are often exposed to real issues in English about the world outside school. They explore current influences on spoken language and consider the vocabulary and grammar of Standard English and varying dialects.

Cultural

Our English curriculum uses texts set in a range of settings and cultures. Because of this, our children are encouraged to empathise with the feelings and experiences of others who may have completely different life experiences to them. Furthermore, our pupils can explore the similarities and differences within these settings. We also use texts that represent our strong literary heritage.