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1. Curriculum Statement

INTENT

At Mount Charles, writing is an integral part of the curriculum. By the end of Year Six, we intend for our children to have developed a love of writing as well as being able to express their thoughts and ideas clearly and creatively through the written word.

Teachers use the National Curriculum and genre progression maps to derive detailed plans. Using 'Talk for Writing' and 'The Write Stuff', careful consideration is given to the sequence of the curriculum and ways in which the lessons build towards a piece of writing which showcases pupils' acquired knowledge, skills and understanding. Teachers, with the support of the Writing Leader, pay careful attention to the cohorts in school and tailor the curriculum to meet the needs and interests of pupils; choosing reading texts and writing genres which inspire and motivate them to learn. In turn, this establishes our pupils' enjoyment and engagement in the subject.

Writing is embedded within all lessons and we strive to ensure pupils become confident writers. Pupils are immersed in vocabulary rich learning environments through the use of high-quality texts; ensuring consistent curriculum expectations through the progression of skills and knowledge. At Mount Charles, we set high expectations for all our children, teaching them to take pride in their work and have a fluent, cursive handwriting style whilst allowing their imaginations to flourish. We intend for our writers to leave at the end of Year 6 able to re-read, edit and improve their own writing; enabling them to confidently use the essential skills of grammar, punctuation and spelling.

IMPLEMENTATION

Writing is taught in whole class lessons at Mount Charles so that all children have access to the age-related skills and knowledge content of the National Curriculum.

Early writing begins through mark making and when pupils start Read Write Inc. (RWI) phonics, they are taught the correct letter formations. This begins with writing cvc words, quickly progressing on to short sentences using the sounds they have been taught. EYFS children are encouraged and inspired through an enabling environment to write independently during continuous provision. In EYFS and Year 1, 'Talk for Writing' is used as a model to plan and develop engaging units of writing that develop the children's understanding of sentences and a range of text types.

In Year 2 and throughout KS2, in order to develop confident, enthusiastic writers who can express themselves in a variety of different styles and across a variety of contexts, teaching of writing is linked to either our class imaginative learning projects (ILP), whole class reading (WCR) texts, other high-quality texts or film stimuli. This provides our pupils with regular opportunities to write for a range of purposes and audiences. Teachers follow the school's long-term map and genre progression map, supported by 'The Write Stuff' schema, to plan and structure their lessons, ensuring a clear progression in the teaching of writing knowledge and skills across the school.

Grammar, Punctuation and Vocabulary (GPV)

Grammar and punctuation knowledge and skills are taught through English lessons as much as possible. Teachers plan to teach the required skills through the genres outlined in the long-term plan for the year group, allowing teachers to provide genuinely connected learning between GPV and overall writing outcomes. Teachers will teach stand-alone GPV lessons if it is deemed necessary to embed and develop pupils' understanding or to consolidate skills. Three 20-minute grammar and punctuation lessons are taught weekly to provide opportunities for pupils to deepen their understanding of the knowledge and skills taught within writing units.

Vocabulary is consistently identified, discussed and displayed in classrooms across all curriculum areas and is an explicit feature in daily WCR lessons. Pupils are encouraged to use a wide range of vocabulary when both speaking and writing. This is modelled to them by adults. Pupils have access to word mats, thesauruses and dictionaries to support their understanding and development of vocabulary.

Spelling

EYFS and KS1 pupils are taught daily through Read, Write Inc. Pupils are taught in ability groups from Reception to Year 2 thus enabling them to be taught according to their stage, not age. Teaching is very precise and tailored to the needs of each child irrespective of year group. Pupils are assessed ½ termly, progressing rapidly through the programme.

Once pupils complete Read, Write Inc. they move to whole class teaching of spellings. From Year 1, Spelling Shed is used to support teaching of the National Curriculum spelling rules (Appendix 1). Spellings are set for homework on a Friday and tested the following Friday. To support children in learning these spelling rules, online Spelling Shed activities are set by teachers weekly.

High frequency words, topic specific vocabulary or words being regularly misspelt will be written below the work to be correctly spelt by pupils three times (these reflect the ability of the pupil).

Handwriting

In EYFS, children learn to form letters using the RWI handwriting phrases (see appendix). In KS1, children then learn to form pre-cursive letters and by the end of KS1 all children are expected to be able to form lower case and upper-case letters with the correct orientation, appropriate size and distance, remembering to leave spaces between words.

In Year 2, when teachers feel a child is ready, they will begin to teach cursive handwriting style through weekly handwriting lessons. Children will be expected to learn to form letters of an appropriate size, leave finger spaces between their words, join fluently using diagonal and horizontal joins and correct their mistakes with a single pencil line. Children will write in pencil until they are able to write legibly, with the expectation that most children will be using pen by the time they are in Year 5.

To support children in developing their handwriting, teachers will model writing at the age appropriate level at all times. Where required, additional practise and writing support aids will be provided to support children in developing their writing skills. All resources will be printed in the school's font as well as any writing on display around the school.

IMPACT

- Pupils at Mount Charles enjoy writing and are confident writers across a range of contexts, applying their skills and knowledge independently.
- Work is differentiated and scaffolded so that pupils of all abilities are able to succeed in writing lessons.
- Pupils have a secure understanding of grammar, punctuation, vocabulary and spelling and can apply them appropriately.
- Pupils will be able to access writing across the curriculum.
- Pupils talk with passion about their writing and the impact of Talk for Writing.
- Pupils access resources available to them and talk confidently about the impact of these on their writing.
- Teachers plan lessons that meet the needs of all learners.
- Teachers are secure in their subject knowledge.

Evidence of the impact will be measured through the following:

- Termly assessment by class teachers, using BABCOCK writing assessment frameworks and the National Curriculum.
- Termly moderation meetings, both within the school and across the trust.
- Termly GAPS assessments.
- Analysis of the GAPS assessments by writing lead who then shares action points and priorities with class teachers.
- SHINE intervention provision reviews on Edukey.
- Termly data meetings to review pupils' individual progress and the progress of cohorts.
- Half-termly monitoring of pupils' writing outcomes in books.
- Half-termly learning walks to monitor teaching of writing – successes and feedback given to teachers.
- Annual pupil conferencing linked to writing.

As a result, we aim for pupils to leave Mount Charles inspired to become writers of the future, with the knowledge and skills to become successful authors, poets, journalists, broadcasters. Mount Charles pupils have high expectations and are ambitious for their future.

2. Planning and Resources

In EYFS, teachers plan opportunities for children to meet their early learning writing goals following the 'Talk for Writing' imitation, innovation and invention sequence. Each writing unit is planned using an age appropriate, high quality text to support pupils' engagement in and understanding of the skills being taught. Pupils are also encouraged to broaden their writing skills through a range of continuous provision opportunities.

In order to expose pupils to a variety of genres thus embedding the necessary writing skills, teachers in both KS1 and KS2 use a short-term plan to structure and identify teaching points throughout their lessons. Year 1 use 'Talk for Writing' to structure their lessons and Year 2 – 6 use 'The Write Stuff'. Each unit journey is designed to show progress in clear manageable steps, outline year group objectives and facilitate application of new knowledge or consolidate previous learned knowledge, skills and vocabulary. Within lessons, teachers and teaching assistants target support for all learners to enable them to achieve at an age-related standard. Where pupils are working below the expected standard for their age, intensive support is given including through targeted feedback, scaffolded support resources, one-to-one tuition and small group work. Confident writers are given opportunities to extend their writing in a variety of ways, including through showing greater control in their writing, a deeper understanding of the impact their writing has on the reader and by using a higher level of vocabulary and grammar.

All classes have a working wall, which clearly shows the writing unit development that pupils take throughout a writing unit. These walls are developed throughout the course of a unit to include key plot points, examples of success criteria, key vocabulary, whole class discussion notes (post-it notes or teacher scribed) and tools to support pupils in achieving their writing objectives.

3. Teaching and Learning

As a school we know that pupils need frequent opportunities to discover the links between the skills of writing, reading, speaking and listening, drama and role play. Because of this, teachers ensure that all writing units encompass a range of experience activities to develop and embed learning for pupils. The conventions of written standard English are modelled to demonstrate what a good text looks like, exemplifying the requirements of each genre of writing. This is best done through children's own work and through that of other writers when it is appropriate.

A wide range of resources are used to support pupils and enable them to become independent writers. Dictionaries, thesauruses, word mats, wall displays and prompts will allow the developing writer to concentrate on content.

The writing process will be monitored to match the appropriate task to the individual through differentiation with the use of continuous assessment as a tool for deciding suitable teaching strategies as a way to develop and sustain progress.

4. Assessment

Writing Assessment

Writing is assessed throughout the year, using a collection of independently written pieces. Babcock assessment criteria grids are used to support teachers in reaching their assessment decisions.

Teachers moderate pupils' writing with their year group partner and writing lead regularly. They also attend moderation meetings with other schools across the trust to ensure consistency of assessment against National Curriculum requirements.

Grammar Punctuation and Vocabulary (GPV) Assessment

GPV is assessed termly using 'GAPS' (standardised assessment papers), allowing teachers to confidently assess each of the content domains and generate diagnostics about strengths and weaknesses to inform teacher planning.

Spelling Assessment

Weekly spelling tests are completed.

A termly spelling test is undertaken as part of the GAPS standardised assessment papers.

5. Organisation

In Key Stage 1, Read Write Inc lessons are held on a daily basis and last for approximately one hour. In addition, pupils receive a one hour writing lesson based on developing composition, grammar, punctuation and spelling following the whole school progression map.

In Key Stage 2, pupils have an hour-long 'The Write Stuff' writing lesson. Pupils are taught what great writing looks like and the mechanics of writing, as well as the development of genre and a range of text types. Pupils take part in 20-minute GAPS sessions three days a week to teach, re-visit and embed grammar and spelling knowledge and skills.

6. Equal Opportunities

At Mount Charles we are committed to promoting equal opportunities irrespective of socioeconomic background, gender, disability and ethnicity in all areas of the curriculum. We believe all pupils should have access to and participate in writing, GPV and Spelling and that they should be given the necessary tool and support to be successful.

7. Inclusion

Teachers will aim to include all pupils fully in their daily English lessons. Teachers differentiate to meet the needs of all pupils and deploy teaching assistants to support pupils where appropriate. However, a pupil whose difficulties are complex may need to be supported with an individualised programme such as RWInc phonics or Fresh Start.

8. Role of the Subject Leader

The coordination and progression mapping of the writing curriculum are the responsibility of the subject leader, who also:

- supports colleagues in their teaching, by keeping them informed about current developments in writing;
- writes a subject development plan, informed by the whole school development plan;
- observes teachers teaching writing and gives feedback;
- tracks progress, monitors assessment data and moderates.