

English

Writing Policy



Approved by:	Subject Lead and Headteacher
Date approved:	2023/ 2024
Date of next review:	2024/2025

INTENT

The Ready Steady Write program is implemented at Meadowhead Juniors to provide an inclusive and comprehensive literacy education, supporting all pupils in developing foundational writing skills and expressive confidence. Our aim is to cultivate independent, masterful writers who can adapt their language, grammar, and vocabulary to a range of audiences and contexts. We foster an appreciation for literature's rich diversity, which pupils encounter through high-quality, thought-provoking texts.

IMPLEMENTATION

Curriculum Design and Structure

Ready Steady Write is delivered through detailed units built around engaging, vocabulary-rich literature. In our school setting, the program is further strengthened through the following initiatives:

1. **Talk for Writing:** Each unit incorporates structured oral rehearsals, allowing pupils to internalise the language of storytelling, argument, or explanation before putting pen to paper. This strategy fosters confidence and enables pupils to generate ideas and practice grammar and vocabulary orally, supporting smoother transitions to writing.
2. **Tower Hamlets Language Initiative:** Adapting principles from the Tower Hamlets Language framework, teachers at Meadowhead Juniors emphasize clarity, accuracy, and richness in language. The curriculum includes vocabulary lists and contextual spelling practice tailored to meet pupils' diverse language needs, helping them to internalise both academic and expressive language.
3. **Accountable Talk:** To develop pupils' critical thinking and language skills, accountable talk is embedded across the curriculum. Through structured discussions, pupils learn to justify their ideas, respect differing opinions, and build on others' thoughts, laying a foundation for clear, logical written arguments and narratives.
4. **Oracy Development:** Building strong communication skills is central to our writing program. Oracy activities are integrated to enhance pupils' ability to articulate their thoughts clearly, supporting their development as writers. Techniques like structured debates, storytelling, and oral summaries enable pupils to refine their ideas before they begin to write.

Planning and Adaptations for Diverse Learners

In alignment with our school's commitment to inclusivity, the Ready Steady Write units are planned with adaptations specific to our pupils' needs:

- **Differentiated Planning:** Each lesson plan includes strategies for differentiating content, ensuring that pupils of all abilities can engage with and benefit from the curriculum. Teachers are encouraged to adapt instruction by using additional scaffolds, targeted vocabulary support, and levelled writing activities.
- **Targeted Language Support:** Recognising the linguistic diversity in our school, teachers implement visual aids, word banks, and bilingual resources as necessary to support English language learners.
- **Intervention Opportunities:** For pupils requiring additional support, Ready Steady Write planning includes opportunities for targeted interventions that reinforce language structures, writing conventions, and vocabulary in small group settings.

Teaching Strategies

Teachers employ a range of approaches to support pupils' writing development, which include:

- **Modelled Writing:** Teachers demonstrate the writing process through live modelling, helping pupils understand how to plan, draft, and edit their work with intentional language choices.
- **Shared Writing:** In collaborative sessions, teachers work with pupils to develop shared pieces of writing, fostering a sense of ownership and demonstrating the use of newly learned vocabulary and grammar.
- **Partner Talk and Group Discussion:** Pupils engage in discussions to explore and clarify their thoughts, helping them build a richer vocabulary and better understand the writing tasks.
- **Working Walls:** Consistently updated to reflect the writing journey, working walls showcase current learning objectives, model texts, and vocabulary. This visual progression acts as a reference for pupils, supporting them in their journey to become masterful writers. Classrooms also display spelling resources, sentence accuracy checkers, and scaffolds, providing a consistent environment that reinforces writing expectations.

Resource Allocation

Each classroom is equipped with Ready Steady Write materials, including thematic books and supplementary texts. Teachers have access to online resources that include lesson plans, differentiated tasks, and assessment tools. Working walls and table resources are kept current, providing clear, visible support as pupils move through each writing unit.

IMPACT

Through Ready Steady Write, Meadowhead Juniors pupils develop:

- **Confident Oracy and Writing Skills:** Oral rehearsal and structured talk enhance pupils' ability to communicate ideas clearly, which translates to their writing.
- **Rich Vocabulary and Grammar:** Vocabulary is strengthened through explicit instruction, and pupils apply grammar in context, enhancing coherence in writing.
- **Reflective and Independent Learning:** With consistent practice in editing and redrafting, pupils become adept at self-assessment and peer review.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment of Ready Steady Write is both formative and summative:

- **Ongoing Formative Assessments:** Teachers provide daily feedback, adapting instruction to address pupils' immediate needs.
- **Reflective Unit Outcomes:** Half-termly assessments allow teachers to adjust upcoming lessons based on progress, ensuring continuous support for each pupil.
- **Termly Moderation Meetings:** Staff meet regularly to moderate pupil work and ensure consistent standards across classes.
- **Data Analysis:** Subject leaders review assessment data to address curriculum gaps and refine support strategies for pupils.

REVIEW AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Subject leaders will review the Ready Steady Write implementation annually, adjusting resources, strategies, and support to reflect Meadowhead Juniors' evolving needs. This dynamic approach ensures that our literacy curriculum remains engaging, relevant, and effective, preparing all pupils to excel as confident, articulate writers.