**Writing at Gerrans School**

*“You can make anything by writing” C.S.Lewis*

**Our Intent**

At Gerrans School, we strive to help our children develop into articulate and imaginative communicators, who are well-equipped with the basic skills they need to become life-long learners; English learning is key in this. We aim to ensure all of our children develop a genuine love of language and the written word, broadly through a text-based approach. Careful links are made across the curriculum to ensure that children’s English learning is relevant and meaningful: where possible linking our reading and writing to the topic that we are covering. We ensure that children develop an understanding of how widely writing is used in everyday life and, therefore, how important and useful the skills are that they are learning. Our intentions in writing are for children to:

• Write for a purpose

• See themselves as real writers

• Take ownership of their writing

• See writing as an interesting and enjoyable process

• Acquire the ability to organise and plan their written work

**Implementation**

Our whole curriculum is shaped by our school vision which aims to enable all children, regardless of background, ability and additional needs, to become the very best version of themselves they can possibly be.

We teach the National Curriculum, supported by a clear skills and knowledge progression. Through a progressive approach, we hope to ensure that skills and knowledge are built on year by year and sequenced appropriately to maximise learning outcomes for all children. We aim to develop children’s ability to produce well-structured, detailed writing in which the meaning is made clear and which engages the interest of the audience / reader.

Particular attention is paid throughout the school to the formal structures of English: grammatical detail, punctuation and spelling. Teachers clearly model writing skills and document children’s learning journey through the employment of working walls. Guided writing sessions are used to target specific needs of both groups and individuals, and children are taught in the main according to year group, although concessions are made where necessary. Children have opportunities to write at length, in extended, independent writing sessions, thus having opportunities to apply their taught skills to an unsupported piece of writing.

Throughout the Early Years and Key Stage 1, children are taught Literacy skills through daily *Read* *Write Inc* lessons. This comprises letter sound tuition, word reading, reading a text, spelling, composition and writing. Children are taught in broadly homogenous groups where they have been placed according to half termly assessments. Once children have completed all phonics levels (Year 2), it is aimed that they move on to RWI’s Comprehension, and Language and Spelling programmes.

In Key Stage 2 writing is taught mainly through a text-based approach relevant to the current topic, which will engage, inspire and motivate all children. As well as reading a wide variety of genres, during the course of the year children are given frequent opportunities to develop their skills in writing across the full range of genres. Again this is linked to topic work and the class text. Inspiration is also drawn from The Cornwall Inspire Curriculum.

Every day in KS2, pupils are taught punctuation and grammar skills appropriate to their year group and/or stage using Ninja. A specific focus is introduced and explicitly taught at the start of the week and children then apply the grammar and punctuation skills learned, during lessons throughout the week.

Although it is within the daily focus lesson where English is explicitly taught, scope is provided across the wider curriculum for further writing opportunities. Inspiration is drawn from sources such as The Literacy Shed, BBC materials, festivals and community events. Wherever possible, writing is relevant and ‘real’. For example children take part in and submit written work into the Gerrans Horticulture Show. Writing competitions are undertaken where appropriate and children engage in other writing activities such as letters and so on. Every half term the whole school takes part in a form of The Big Write where all children from Reception to Year 6 join together in mixed age groups or parings, to engage in a mini project which then forms the stimulus for a written piece of work. In the past we have embarked on outdoor shelter building, game design, drama, beach cleans and beach art. This always proves to be extremely successful and children are motivated, excited and inspired to write.

At Gerrans, spelling is taught regularly in focused sessions within the daily English lesson. Learning to recognise the high frequency words on sight is crucial in developing fluency and accuracy in reading and then writing.

**Impact**

By the time children leave our school it is aimed that they will:

* Have made good progress and achieved at least expected standard for English
* Have a life-long love for writing and write for enjoyment
* Be able to produce written work in all areas of the curriculum to a high standard
* Be confident to write for a range of different purposes
* See themselves as writers