

Spelling

At Wrington, we aim to develop children's enjoyment of and ability to write for a wide range of purposes. We recognise that spelling is one area of this and that accurate spelling is important for clear communication.

Our aims for spelling are:

- To recognise correct spelling as a useful tool;
- To value correct spelling as desirable, without allowing this to constrain creativity;
- To have a clear understanding of the developmental 'path' a speller needs to follow;
- To teach a wide range of strategies to enable spellers to become independent;
- To enable all our children, whatever their ability, to feel successful in spelling.

Teaching and Learning styles.

At Wrington, we believe that spelling needs to be 'taught, not caught'. (Dr. Margaret Peters)
Our Early Years and Key Stage 1 classes follow the Letters and Sounds synthetic phonics programme. This is extended throughout the school with groups or individual pupils where appropriate for their developmental needs. We recognise that children learn in different ways and, through our teaching, we aim to offer a range of methods. We recognise that spellers may respond to the shape, the sound, the hand movement associated with or conscious links that aid memorisation (mnemonics) or a combination of these factors. Teaching needs to take account of all these strategies so we can ensure success for all.

We recognise that there are developmental stages a speller progresses through and use this knowledge to move children on to the next step.

Staff share useful and relevant websites that support spelling development. Spelling is a fundamental element in all areas of the curriculum and relevant topic words are highlighted and discussed as appropriate.

Whilst correct spelling is recognised as desirable and important, work should never be corrected to the extent that children are afraid to be adventurous in their vocabulary choices - or not want to write. There should be an atmosphere within the class allowing experimentation and 'having a go' rather than a fixation on correctness. Children at Wrington are offered various strategies to enable their spelling to develop. We also recognise that 'good' spellers need investigations and challenges to extend their development.



Resources.

A range of suitable resources to support the teaching of spelling across the school is available. These are regularly up dated as the need/opportunity arises. Key stage 1 teachers have access to the government's phonics materials and key stage 2 teachers have the Spelling Bank materials. Year 2/3 teachers also have the key stage transition booklet. Letters and Sounds and Jolly phonics materials are used. Classrooms have computers/laptops and children use relevant spelling programs/ games to support their learning.