

Subject Specific Concepts and the reasons for our choices

Subject: Writing

The National Curriculum explains the importance of teaching and developing pupils' competence in a number of areas; in particular transcription and composition for writing. It recognises the importance of becoming articulate in communicating ideas and organising them coherently for an audience or reader. It determines this as developing clarity, awareness of the audience, purpose and context and an increasingly wide knowledge of vocabulary and grammar.

Concept	Why learn about this concept?	Year group studied
Speaking and Listening	<p>Speaking and Listening is a Repton key concept because being able to effectively converse with others is a fundamental life skill. We believe that the development of speaking and listening skills allows our children to be appropriately equipped for the world ahead of them. At the heart of our Storytelling approach here at Repton Manor Primary School is the idea of every child being a storyteller. This begins through oral rehearsal and re-telling of stories. Once children become immersed in a story, they are able to build engagement and hold the attention of others. They learn how to captivate their audience and develop ideas independently. Once engaged with verbal preparation of their ideas, children can then move onto the development of their writing.</p> <p>Access to a rich vocabulary allows children to communicate their thoughts and ideas, engaging in a variety of activities which strengthen conversation and their ability to feel confident in more in depth scenarios such as debate, discussion, persuasion and explanation.</p>	All years
Handwriting	<p>Handwriting is a Repton key concept because we believe that our children should be taught an effective way to transcribe their thoughts and ideas. Children begin developing their motor skills before they even reach the classroom and development of this in the Early Years is fundamental to supporting their handwriting journey. Children are then taught to form letters correctly, allowing their written work to be decoded and comprehended by the reader effectively. A fluent handwriting style is expected as this allows children to make best use of their time, communicating speedily and allowing them the best possible chance to fully communicate with others.</p>	All years
Spelling	<p>Spelling is a Repton key concept as we believe that it deepens children's understanding of vocabulary and consolidates their understanding of the printed word. Children are taught to read and write sounds as phonemes and graphemes, following our phonics programme. Children's recognition of phoneme-grapheme correspondence is essential to underpin their reading skills and subsequently their ability to spell words independently. Once confident on their phonetic application, children can then apply this to the written word, making reasonable attempts at new words.</p> <p>Children are taught spellings explicitly through a study of orthography; where patterns of letters are used to make certain sounds. Children become proficient in using both sounds and syllables to build words. The application of morphology (root words, prefixes and suffixes) becomes a key skill as children learn to build words from familiar sounds, patterns and root words. The study of etymology becomes a more frequent feature as children are taught the historical developments of words, allowing them to see further patterns in the origin of certain words and how words have been adapted both in the English language and other languages. Making references to these links helps to deepen children's appreciation of language and vocabulary thus enabling them to make better use of it themselves in their communication with others. Having confidence to tackle new word spelling is a key developmental phase and when coupled with the explicit teaching of new words, children become proficient spellers.</p>	All years
Composition (including:	<p>Composition is a Repton key concept because the ability to effectively articulate and communicate ideas is key to children's success in society. We believe that children should be given the opportunity to practise ways to gather their ideas, rehearse and</p>	All years

grammar and punctuation)	<p>then convey them coherently for a reader or listener. A fundamental development stage of creating impactful composition is to explicitly expose children to a rich and varied vocabulary both through immersion in reading and through the explicit teaching of language. Drafting written work becomes fundamental to the creation stage and by allowing children to reread and develop their ideas then enhances the effectiveness of what they write.</p> <p>Explicit teaching of grammar and punctuation allows children to apply the rules correctly to their own written work for best impact on the reader. Accurate grammar and punctuation is modelled regularly, teaching children how to use parts of speech correctly, develop their figurative language and extend their use of sentences structures and specific vocabulary. A well-considered piece of written work will effectively communicate clear meaning and detail, allowing children to become successful writers.</p>	
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