

Spelling Curriculum: Information for Parents



Your child is on their journey to becoming a skilled speller. At our school, the children learn to spell following the Lingfield Education Trust spelling curriculum, which draws on the National Curriculum.

Curriculum Aims

Our spelling curriculum aims for all children to:

- Learn how to apply their phonics skills to writing.
- Develop an understanding of the different spelling patterns in the English language. We use the term 'patterns' rather than 'rules' because there are always exceptions to rules. The children learn more and less common patterns, including learning those which are 'tricky'.
- Learn strategies to help them apply their spellings at the point of writing.

How does it work?

Each week, the children are taught spelling within daily sessions. These follow a similar routine each week so that the children become familiar with these. They include:

- Exploration of the spelling pattern, including the reasons behind the pattern and a range of words which use this pattern.
- Using a 'phonics voice' to practise spelling some words which follow the pattern.
- Using a 'spelling voice' by breaking words into syllables.
- Learning the history of words (etymology) and how to build words (morphology)
- Applying their spelling knowledge to a number of independent and paired activities, including within dictation.
- Practising previous spelling patterns and other statutory words so that they become embedded in the children's long-term memory.

Making learning stick

Our curriculum aims for the children to be able to apply the spelling patterns to different rules, rather than just learning 10 words each week and then moving on.

To do this, we revisit previously taught spelling patterns within our weekly lessons as well as having dedicated weeks where we look at patterns we have learnt before. We also focus on applying our knowledge across the school day.

Spelling Bee



Each week, the children complete a Spelling Bee. This is where the children independently practise spelling some words from the week's pattern, alongside words from previous weeks' learning and those in the National Curriculum's statutory lists. The number of words depends on the year group.

We use the Spelling Bee as a teaching point. The class discuss the patterns, how they are applied in each word and learn to make corrections as they check their own spellings.

