



English Spelling

We strive to ensure that all children become confident, accurate spellers who can apply their knowledge with independence across the curriculum. Spelling is complex, so our curriculum focuses on securing foundational knowledge of phonics, morphology and etymology to reduce cognitive load and support long-term retention. Through explicit instruction and regular opportunities for retrieval and application, pupils develop fluency, accuracy and curiosity about the structure of words. Our approach is underpinned by research from the [EEF Guidance Report](#), [Ofsted's English Report](#) and [Strong Foundations](#).

Intent

We aim to:



Ensure our children are confident and accurate spellers – at Holywell, we believe every child can develop strong spelling to support effective writing.

Encourage children to apply their spelling knowledge across a range of subjects and contexts, showing independence and attention to detail in their written work.

Develop a deep understanding of word structure, enabling children to spell with accuracy and make links between words.

Prepare our children for the demands of Key Stage 3 and beyond through a well-sequenced spelling curriculum that builds secure knowledge over time and promotes independent application.

Ensure all staff have access to high-quality CPD and consistent resources to support the effective teaching of spelling, underpinned by evidence-informed practice.

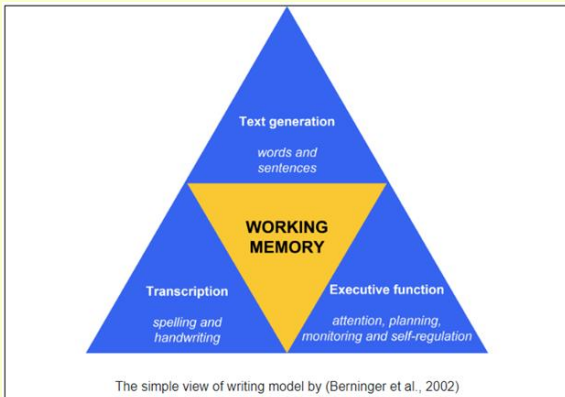
Implementation

How we achieve our aims:



Ambitious Curriculum for All

Holywell's spelling curriculum is deliberately ambitious and ensures children develop as accurate, confident spellers.



Substantive Knowledge

A spiral approach aligned with the National Curriculum, revisiting key concepts at greater depth as children progress:

- Phoneme–grapheme correspondence
- Common exception and high-frequency words
- Spelling rules and patterns
- Morphology (prefixes, suffixes, root words)
- Etymology (word origins)
- Word families

Disciplinary Knowledge

We develop pupils' ability to think like writers by:

- Applying taught rules and patterns in independent writing
- Identifying and correcting errors through proofreading
- Making links between spelling and vocabulary development
- Using morphology and etymology to explore unfamiliar words
- Developing independence in checking and editing choices

Curriculum Links

Spelling is applied and reinforced across the curriculum:

- Writing – Accurate spelling supports composition, clarity and fluency in writing
- Reading – Morphology and etymology deepen vocabulary understanding
- Phonics – Builds on early decoding and encoding strategies
- Wider Curriculum Writing – Spelling accuracy supports high standards across subjects

Enrichment

We enhance our writing curriculum through:

- Spelling Bees – Fun competitions to boost confidence and recall
- Journals– Explore new words, meanings, and spellings
- Spelling Games – Interactive activities to reinforce patterns
- Etymology Explorers – Discover word origins across subjects

Inclusive and Adaptive Teaching

All pupils access high-quality learning through adaptive teaching and targeted support. Teaching prioritises equity of access, not simplification of content. Progression is based on secure understanding and readiness.

Support

- Scaffolded learning (word banks, models, visual supports)
- Additional practice and explicit modelling
- Targeted interventions for identified gaps
- Small group or one-to-one support
- Use of assistive technology where appropriate

Challenge

- Independent application of complex spelling patterns in writing
- Opportunities for self-directed exploration of vocabulary
- Open-ended tasks requiring reasoning and justification
- Exploration of morphology and etymology to deepen understanding

Assessment

Assessment is used to identify gaps quickly and adapt teaching:

- Ongoing formative assessment during lessons
- Live marking to address misconceptions
- Half-termly teacher assessment
- Use of spelling assessments to inform next steps

Effective Teaching in Spelling

Teaching follows the Holywell lesson structure:

- **Connect:** revisit prior spelling patterns and knowledge
- **Model:** explicitly teach new rules, patterns or concepts
- **Practice:** guided and independent application of spelling knowledge
- **Consolidate:** revisit, retrieve and apply spelling in context

Additional features:

- Small steps and clear modelling
- Explicit teaching of spelling (three 15-minute sessions per week)
- Application in meaningful writing contexts
- Regular retrieval and revisiting to support long-term retention
- Gradual release from guided to independent practice

Home Learning

To promote confidence and fluency in writing, the focus of our home learning is on spelling practice and consolidation. This includes:

- Practicing high-frequency and key vocabulary words in EYFS and KS1.
- Spelling patterns and rules in KS2.

Subject Leadership

Resources

- Dictionaries
- Thesauruses
- Spell It dictionaries
- Base slides
- Word mats
- Spelling practice worksheets.

CPD

CPD ranges from professional discussions, in-house training, external courses and online subject knowledge videos accessible through CUSP.

Quality Assurance

We quality assure through:

- Pupil book study
- Learning walks
- Book looks
- Staff & pupil voice
- Data analysis
- Writing moderation.

Impact

Our outcomes:



Children show enjoyment and curiosity in their spelling, actively engaging in tasks and taking pride in their work.

Children use precise and ambitious spelling, enabling them to express ideas clearly, considering audience and purpose.

Children develop strong spelling skills that support their transcription and composition across the curriculum, preparing them for secondary school.

All children make progress from their starting points, with most achieving age related expectations or better in spelling.

Teaching teams are confident in delivering the spelling curriculum, using effective strategies to support and challenge all learners.