

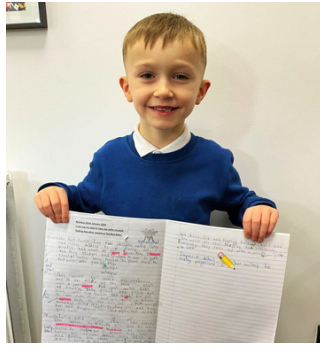
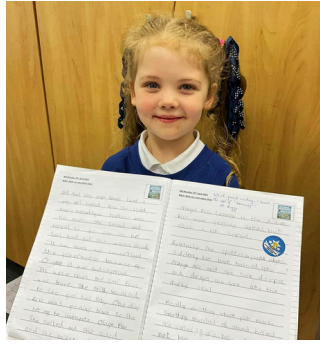


Writing Moderation at Arden

24th
June
2024



Context

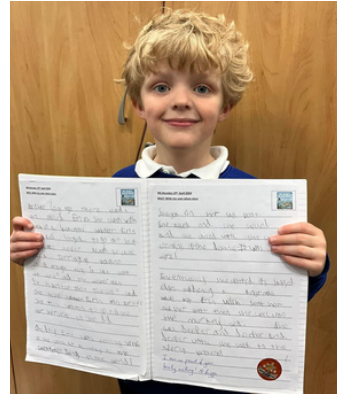


Research underscores the pivotal role of writing in a child's educational journey. Writing is not merely a subject but a fundamental life skill that transcends classrooms and textbooks. It is a vehicle through which children can articulate their thoughts, express their creativity, and communicate effectively with others. Through our writing curriculum, children are taught the knowledge, understanding, and skills they need to fully unlock their individual potential.

Writing at Arden

Our writing curriculum is designed to empower pupils with the essential skills they need to have a voice in the world. We know that fluency in literacy is crucial for success, embracing a high-quality education, and providing children with the tools they need to fully participate in society.

At Arden, the teaching of writing within the English curriculum has been carefully considered to enable our pupils to become confident and creative writers, with high-quality texts used as key stimuli. Objectives for each year group are progressively mapped out to ensure children acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to achieve in KS3 and beyond.



Ready Steady Write

We introduced 'Ready Steady Write' from Literacy Counts for one fundamental reason: to improve writing outcomes for children. Ready Steady Write is an **ambitious, research-informed, and evidence-based** approach to the teaching of writing and forms the basis of our daily, discrete writing lessons from Reception to Year 6. Writing units center around high-quality, engaging, and ambitious 'Vehicle Texts,' which inspire children's writing across a range of genres.

Results

KS2 Writing Data (National)

2022
69%

2023
71%

2024
?%

KS2 Writing Data (Arden)

2022
52%

2023
66%

2024
80%

November 2022

Ready Steady Write introduced.
Impact first seen in 2023 data.

July 2024

External standardised moderation carried out by the Local Authority.

2024 Moderation

Overview

On 24th June 2024, Local Authority writing moderators carried out statutory external moderation at Arden. The moderation process seeks to validate the school's Teacher Assessment (TA) judgements of English writing outcomes and ensure these align with national standards.

The moderation confirmed the accuracy and consistency of Arden's assessments: **80% of pupils have met or exceeded the expected standard.** The moderation team particularly commended the Year 6 team for their articulate and informed contributions to the process, alongside their strong confidence in their assessment judgements. Their understanding of the writing journey and its impact on student outcomes was evident, and the team commented on the collaborative approach across the year group, remarking that this teamwork significantly contributed to the high writing outcomes achieved.

Key Strengths: comments from moderators

Pupils consistently demonstrated excellent use of punctuation, reflecting the effectiveness of daily sentence accuracy implemented across the school.

Daily sentence accuracy practice has had a significant positive impact, evident in the improved quality and precision of writing.

Pupils effectively used appropriate tone and register, adapting their writing style to suit various contexts and purposes.

Teachers showed exceptional accuracy in their judgements. They showed a deep understanding of pupils' capabilities, accurately identifying both strengths and areas for improvement.

The high quality texts chosen have enriched pupil's reading experiences, providing a substantial foundation for their writing skills.

Non-fiction writing was particularly strong, with pupils producing clear, formal, and purpose-driven work that supports all levels of writers effectively.

Vocabulary is a significant strength. Pupils are explicitly taught and are able to correctly use and spell a wide range of vocabulary in their writing.

Pupils' final pieces reflected thoughtful incorporation of assessment feedback, demonstrating their ability to improve based on teachers' guidance.

The "Ready Steady Write" approach is well-embedded across all year groups, providing a clear and structured sequence of lessons that help reduce cognitive load. This consistency aids pupils in understanding and engaging with the writing process.

Next step

Spelling needs more focused attention, especially in areas not directly linked to vocabulary instruction. An area of focus for 2024/25 will be ensuring gaps in knowledge and spelling rules are closed.

Summary

We were delighted to have our strong and improving performance in writing affirmed. The journey the school has been on in the last two years since the implementation of 'Ready Steady Write' has been validated. We are especially proud of the Year 6 team: Megan Hughes, Ben Whalley, and Rebecca Gilligan. Their collective dedication and expertise all year have played a crucial role in achieving Arden's highest writing data since 2005. Their collaborative efforts and confident communication about the writing journey were key factors in achieving these outcomes.

Looking forward, we acknowledge the importance of addressing areas such as spelling accuracy. We are fully committed to building on this year's success and ensuring that all students at Arden thrive in their writing development.