

How can I support my child with Free Writing?

- Whenever your child is doing a task which involves writing, encourage them to use the **VCOP**.
- Talk about lots of different things with your child... Topical issues, anything funny that has happened today, how they feel about something, what you are going to do at the weekend etc.
- Use 'WOW' words with your child and explain what they mean if they do not know.
- Give your child a 'WOW' word and ask them to put it into a sentence.
- Play lots of different games that involve discussion and using language.
- Encourage your child to write postcards on holiday, keep a diary, write 'to do' lists or the shopping list for you etc.

Oundle CE Primary School

Information for parents and carers.

Free Write



Teaching children to become confident, independent and expert writers.



What is 'Free Write' ?

Free Writing is a teaching approach to writing designed to rapidly and effectively raise the standards of writing through the 'fast, fun and lively' teaching of the 'writing voice'. This approach to writing is highly effective from Reception to KS3.

Once a term children will take part in a Free Writing lesson with a particular school focus. This session is a time for children to bring together the skills (VCOP) that they are learning. VCOP will be taught across the curriculum throughout the week. Children have their own VCOP sheets and use them regularly.

The Free Writing session is split into two parts. The first part of the session focuses on the 'build-up' of the task where children get to share their ideas before planning their writing. The second half of the session, is writing time.

During this time, children have calming background music playing and a visual stimulus is shown on the Interactive Whiteboards. Support for less confident writers is built into the sessions to maximise children's potential. At the end of each session children will use VCOP to self-evaluate their own work.

At Oundle CE Primary we are taking a Whole School approach by introducing **Free Write** sessions in assembly with a specific stimulus. The children will then return to class to discuss and write.

An important part of Free Write philosophy is the 'importance of talk'.

'If a child can say it, a child can write it'.

Encouraging talk is key to unlocking a child's writing voice. Talk is where the thought process for writing begins. By enriching a child's vocabulary and understanding of how language works the better writers they can become.

When you look at your child's work you will see how they have used different colours to highlight their success.

Vocabulary - Green

Connectives - Yellow

Openers - Orange

Punctuation - Purple

How does Free Writing work?

Free Writing focuses on four key elements of writing known as **VCOP**.

Vocabulary - children are encouraged to use exciting (WOW words) & widen their use of language

Connectives - (e.g. but, because, when, also, so, besides) - important for ensuring that writing is cohesive and interesting.

Openers - Using different sentence openers helps writing to be more interesting and engaging to the reader. Connectives can also make good openers.

Punctuation - important as it helps us to make meaning of what is written.

Developing children's competency and skills in these four areas will help them to become accomplished and confident writers. Using a fun, interactive approach involving a combination of games, talk and writing, children will learn how to use VCOP to write for different purposes using clear criteria for success. The different elements will be introduced to throughout the school and will be used in an age appropriate manner.