



Teaching Spelling at Springcroft Year 2 to Year 6

At Springcroft we use the 'No Nonsense Spelling Programme' to teach our children spellings. The focus of the 'No Nonsense Spelling Programme' is on the teaching of spelling, which embraces knowledge of spelling conventions - patterns and rules; but integral to the teaching is the opportunity to promote the learning of spellings, including statutory words, common exceptions and personal spellings.

How 'No Nonsense Spelling' is organised

The programme consists of the following elements:

- The requirements of the National Curriculum, which have been organised into strands and then broken down into termly overviews.
- Termly overviews that have been mapped across weeks as half termly plans. These follow a model of five spelling sessions across two weeks, except in Year 2 where sessions are daily.
- Daily lesson plans for each session, with Supporting Resources, including word lists and guidance on conventions.

How 'No Nonsense Spelling' is delivered and assessed.

By integrating activities for practising spellings in handwriting lessons, the benefit of making a spelling activity kinaesthetic is secured. The pupil acquires the physical memory of the spelling pattern as well as the visual.

Pupils' learning is assessed throughout the programme. Activities used to assess the children include:

- Testing - by teacher and peers
- Dictation
- Explaining
- Independent application in writing
- Frequent learning and testing of statutory and personal words.

Weekly Tests

Learning needs to happen in school and at home. There is little evidence, though, that the traditional practice of learning spellings (usually 10) at home and being tested on them (usually on a Friday) is effective. However, there is a high expectation within the new National Curriculum that pupils will learn many increasingly complex words.

Within the programme, learning spellings is built into each six-week block. Within the sessions a range of strategies for learning spellings are introduced and practiced in school. This enables pupils to choose the strategies they find most effective for learning different words and then they can use these to practise their spellings at home.

Children will then be tested on the spellings they have been learning to spell at school on Mondays.