

Spelling – A Parents' Guide

Initial assessment:

Using the spelling pattern list for the appropriate year group (see [The national curriculum in England - English Appendix 1 ...](#)) the children will be taught either the year group they are at or below. A small group may be set up to continue to work on phonics if necessary.

Weekly lessons:

During the week there will be a number of short spelling lessons. We will use the Read Write Inc spelling programme to teach this.

There will be a focus on the week's patterns in lessons too. Teachers will plan the spelling pattern into other subject areas as much as possible so that children have an opportunity to see the pattern and use it.

'Testing':

In lessons the spellings won't be tested in a weekly spelling test. They will be picked up in the children's writing in all areas of the curriculum. The marking policy has been amended so that red words especially are focussed on.

Children can test each other on the focus spelling patterns in morning starters, in Years 2-6 the children can use their personal spelling dictionaries (PSDs) to do this.

Supporting spelling in class and at home:

In class the week's spelling patterns will be displayed so that children can refer to them.

The children will be encouraged to use strategies they have learnt in school to help with their spelling such as using Fred fingers to sound out the word. Try not to give them the spelling straight away.

Ways to learn spellings

- Find words within the word (there's a 'hen' in 'when'!)
- Break the word up into smaller parts (Wed + nes + day = Wednesday)
- Break the word up into sounds (th-a-nk)
- Make up a silly sentence using the letters (big elephants cause accidents under small elephants - spells 'because')
- Say the word as it is written (like 'knight')
- Find a word that rhymes with it: is the spelling the same?

Spelling games and support:

We have subscribed to Spelling Shed - your child should have a log in for this.

<https://play.edshed.com/en-gb/spelling>

Playing games such as:

Hang man

Boggle

Scrabble

Other useful websites:

<http://childdevelopmentinfo.com/learning/tips-for-helping-kids-and-teens-with-homework-and-study-habits/spelling/>

[**At home with spelling – helping your child learn to spell**](#)

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading-site/expert-help/grammar-punctuation-and-spelling-made-easy>