



# Little River School: Writing Curriculum

Writing is an integral part of the Literacy Curriculum. At Little River School we will use deliberate acts of teaching writing, ensuring that students are able to express themselves in a written format that meets the given purpose e.g. to entertain, inform and persuade.

Teachers recognise that writing is a tool across all areas of the curriculum, and that shared expectations for teaching writing remain consistent.

## Our Goal

By the time students leave Little River School, they will:

- Be confident, capable, and motivated writers who enjoy writing for a variety of purposes and audiences.
- Have strong skills in organising ideas, using precise vocabulary, and crafting well-structured sentences and paragraphs.
- Write fluently and accurately, applying correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation.
- Use the writing process—planning, drafting, revising, and editing—to create clear, polished, and effective texts.
- See themselves as lifelong writers who can communicate, persuade, inform, and inspire through the written word.

## Core Principles of our Writing Curriculum

- Writing is a deliberate and consistent practice. The curriculum emphasizes that writing is an essential part of the literacy program and is taught with a clear purpose, such as to entertain, inform, or persuade.
- Structured literacy is the foundation. The school uses specific programs like BSLA and UFLI for spelling and Structured Literacy strategies for grammar and punctuation. These are taught frequently, often 3-4 times a week or daily.
- Physical skills are important. Handwriting is taught regularly to help students achieve automaticity, which reduces barriers to fluent writing. Older students (Years 6-8) are also taught keyboard skills using a program called Typing Club.
- Emphasis on the writing process. The curriculum teaches students that writing is a process that involves planning, drafting, editing, and recrafting. Students are taught how to plan and are encouraged to revisit and polish their work.
- Oral language and vocabulary are key. For younger students, organizing ideas and forming sentences orally is a crucial part of the program. All students are

taught to use word/phrase banks, dictionaries, and thesauruses to enhance their vocabulary and make precise word choices.

- Modeling and feedback are essential. Teachers model "good writing" through shared class writing and by using published texts. Students also receive feedback from themselves, their peers, and teachers, using rubrics and clear learning outcomes to guide the process.
- Curriculum alignment. The entire teaching and learning approach is based on the current New Zealand Curriculum.

In essence, the Little River School writing curriculum is a well-structured approach that combines foundational skills like spelling and handwriting with a process-based model for drafting and refining written work.

### **The Writing Process**

- **Planning:** Students are explicitly taught how to plan their writing using appropriate tools and strategies.
- **Drafting and recrafting:** Students learn that writing is a process, revisiting and refining their work to “polish the gem.”
- **Modelling:** Teachers regularly share and model examples of effective writing, either through whole-class shared writing or published texts.
- **Editing:** Students are taught how to edit for clarity, precision, and impact, making deliberate language choices to enhance meaning.

### **Feedback and Assessment**

- **Feedback:** Self, peer, and teacher feedback is given at both draft and publication stages. Students are explicitly taught how to give and receive constructive, meaningful feedback.
- **Assessment:** Writing is assessed against exemplars, rubrics, DIBELS, asTTLe and the expectations of the Literacy Curriculum.
- **Moderation:** Teachers engage in regular moderation to ensure consistency of expectations and judgements.

### **Curriculum Alignment**

All teaching and learning in writing is grounded in the **New Zealand Curriculum**, with an emphasis on structured, high-quality instruction that develops confident, capable, and creative writers.