

**BRADWELL VILLAGE
SCHOOL**



**A WRITING GUIDE FOR
PARENTS**

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT FOR WRITING

Talking with your child is a very easy and effective way of encouraging good language and writing skills. **We would be grateful if you could spend some time during the week trying some of the activities in this booklet.** They are designed to tie in perfectly with the work that your child will be experiencing in school and therefore will help to raise the standard of work that your child produces

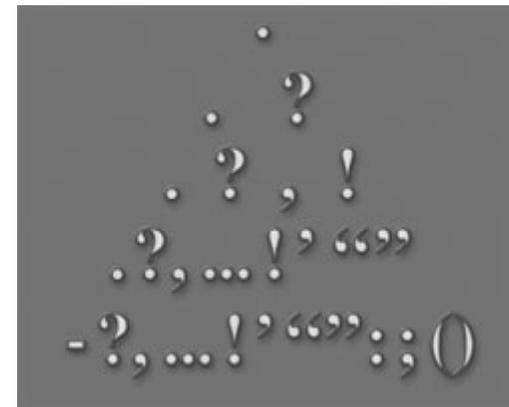
RATIONALE

Writing is a major part of the curriculum and along with reading, listening and talking, makes a significant contribution to development of children as thinkers and learners.

Writing involves a set of complex skills that will not develop without structured teaching and practice. In Bradwell Village School we are using the Ros Wilson approach to writing. This approach is based on child centered, interactive learning with a focus on four core targets of Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation (VCOP).

PUNCTUATION

We show the children different forms of punctuation and give them examples of how to use them. Punctuation is differentiated in Levels 1-5. The children play lots of games using the Punctuation Pyramid. This pyramid shows the differentiation of the punctuation.



PUNCTUATION PYRAMID

YOU CAN HELP!

Make up fun sentences using different forms of punctuation. Give your child a piece of punctuation and ask them to give you a sentence using it and you will be amazed at the improvement in their understanding!

OPENERS

There are different ways of opening sentences. Younger children will use words like I/Then/They. We want to encourage the children to think of other words to use. Older children will be introduced to Power Openers. Here we ask the children to use connectives to start sentences. We would develop their skills by showing them how to use words ending with **ly**, **ing**, or **ed**. (For example; Amazingly, John was happy to get on with his work.)

IDEAS ON HOW TO HELP WITH OPENERS

Spend time discussing different ways to start sentences. Give your child examples of Power Openers that you can think of. Use verbs and adjectives to describe what people are doing and make up a sentence with the verb/adjective at the beginning e.g.

Walking home from school one day, I saw a massive dog.

Huffily he agreed to complete his homework.

Opening words ending in ly or ing are called....

POWER OPENERS!

Throughout the school the children use a variety of texts to gain more knowledge about how to improve their own writing. Children read to write and write to read.

We have a high expectation of the use of the core skills of Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation. We value writing and work hard to achieve high standards from all children, within a positive writing ethos.

Literacy skills empower individuals to unlock their potential as independent lifelong learners. They have a significant impact on self-esteem, motivation and aspirations for the future. Being literate equips young people to be proactive in their own learning and to explain their thoughts.

In this way, they grow in an understanding of themselves as individuals and as members of society. To this end, BVS places raising achievement in Literacy at the centre of our Raising Standards Agenda.

WHAT IS VCOP?

VCOP are the four core targets we use to teach writing. The letters stand for:

- Vocabulary
- Connectives
- Openers
- Punctuation

VOCABULARY

In this area we promote the use of "WOW" words when writing. These are words which are ambitious for the children to use. We encourage the children to look for WOW words in their reading of texts, (for example, reading books/novels read at home) and we also highlight the fact that WOW words can be found in conversations (for example, on TV or with friends and/or family).

IT'S REALLY EASY TO HELP YOUR CHILD WITH THIS!

Read with them and to them. Share WOW words from your own reading and tell them words which you would use in different situations.

CONNECTIVES

Connectives make sentences longer because they join pieces of information together. The children are aware that there are different levels of connectives, therefore they are able to develop their writing appropriately. We ask the children to use connectives at the beginning of sentences so they can be used as sentence openers too.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Discuss different connectives with your child. Match connectives together. For example, which connectives could be used instead of "and"? Talk about making sentences longer and more interesting by using a range of connectives—not simple and/but/because.