



SPAG at St Mary's Catholic Academy

The Value of Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPAG)

The correct use of spelling, punctuation and grammar gives children the right tools to communicate the written form accurately. The wrong punctuation, the wrong spelling or the wrong grammar, can completely alter the meaning of a sentence. Knowing how to manipulate techniques correctly, gives children the confidence to write for an ever-increasing range of purposes. When older, a secure knowledge of this can really set them apart from the crowd and enhance their opportunities. A child with good spelling, punctuation and grammar skills has less demand on their cognitive load when righting, meaning their thoughts can focus heavily on creativity and vocabulary choice. Automaticity is the goal for every child to achieve in their SPAG knowledge, skills and application.

We aim to:

- Provide understanding of the key principles of word construction: phonemic, morphological and etymological.
- Be confident and accurate in a wide range of spelling, punctuation and grammar techniques.
- Apply this knowledge in a wide variety of contexts for a range of different purposes.

Rainbow Grammar

is a teaching approach we use in school – as of October 2021.

KS2 children should be able to talk about this approach confidently as we progress through the year.

subject A terrifying golden dragon	predicate flew down from the blue sky	stop •
subject The dragon	predicate drank all the water from every loch	stop •
subject The <u>Stoorworm</u> dragon	predicate landed with a clump, bump and thump	stop •

Teaching Strategies

Phonics

The basis of SPAG begins in the Foundation Stage through the rigorous and discreet teaching of phonics - See 'Phonics Guide.'

Spelling

As children progress through school, children explore the different spelling patterns. They build on their phonic knowledge, exploring morphology (study of words and their parts) and etymology (word origins).

Children learn the statutory spellings for their year group from the National Curriculum which can be found in your child's reading organiser.

Weekly spellings ensure children encounter the statutory words and spelling patterns for their year group. Teachers are familiar with what pupils have been taught about spelling in earlier years: such as which rules pupils have been taught for adding prefixes and suffixes.

We encourage children to practise these regularly at home and apply the words into sentences to help understand them and recognise them in different contexts.

Punctuation and Grammar

Children are taught punctuation and grammar following the requirements of the National Curriculum. These grammatical structures are refined, consolidated and built upon as children progress through school. Each week, these different elements are taught explicitly in grammar sessions, and within the context of a session. Children are then helped and encouraged to use this knowledge in their writing across all areas of the curriculum.

"I love grammar because it helps me improve my writing and technicality."

(Gianluca)