

The Catholic School of Saint Gregory The Great

Helping Your Child With Spelling

Believe and Achieve



Introduction for Parents and Carers

This booklet is intended to give you information about the approaches used to help children to become effective spellers. As with all aspects of the curriculum, children learn best when parents provide active encouragement and support. Parents are also able to extend what happens in school and help children apply their learning to the world beyond the classroom. All children are different and the development of spelling skills will vary between individuals.

Some points to bear in mind:

- Children learn best through play - spelling activities are best seen as 'playing with words'.
- Good spellers are usually good speakers and good readers – children need to be listened to, read to and read with.
- Spelling is about spotting patterns and generalising - it would be impossible to learn to spell each word separately! Seeing patterns, making analogies and generalising are key skills, which is why sorting activities with words are particularly helpful.
- Being able to spell is not an indicator of intelligence or overall writing ability, but, being able to spell accurately will help with the development of other inter-related writing skills. Particular support for those children with specific learning needs in terms of spelling is best discussed at an individual level.
- Spelling needs to be thought of as a thinking process rather than a rote learning process. If you can explain **why** a word is spelt in a particular way, you will probably remember how to spell it.
- Children will enjoy spelling if it feels like fun and if they feel good about themselves as spellers. We need, therefore, to be playful and positive in our approach – noticing and praising what children **can** do as well as helping them to correct their mistakes.

We hope that this booklet will provide you with some starting points for spelling activities, which you can develop in your own creative ways! It's all about loving words!

Helping Your Child To Spell - Key Stage 2



Spelling at Key Stage 2: "Phonic knowledge should continue to underpin spelling but, increasingly, pupils need to understand the role of morphology (units meaning) and etymology (word derivation)."

All earlier knowledge and skills will be developed and embedded, and further spelling rules and patterns are introduced. These will include:

- the unusual letter matches for phonemes
- prefixes e.g. *dis-* *mis-* *in-* *il-* *im-* *ir-* *re-* *sub-* *inter-* *super-* *anti-* *auto-*
- suffixes e.g. *-ation* *-ly* *-ous*
- words ending in *-able* *-ible* *-ant* *-ance*, *-ent* *-ence*
- homophones e.g. *groan/grown*, *peace/piece*, *practice/practise*
- silent letters
- the use of the hyphen
- the use of the apostrophe for possession (singular and plural)

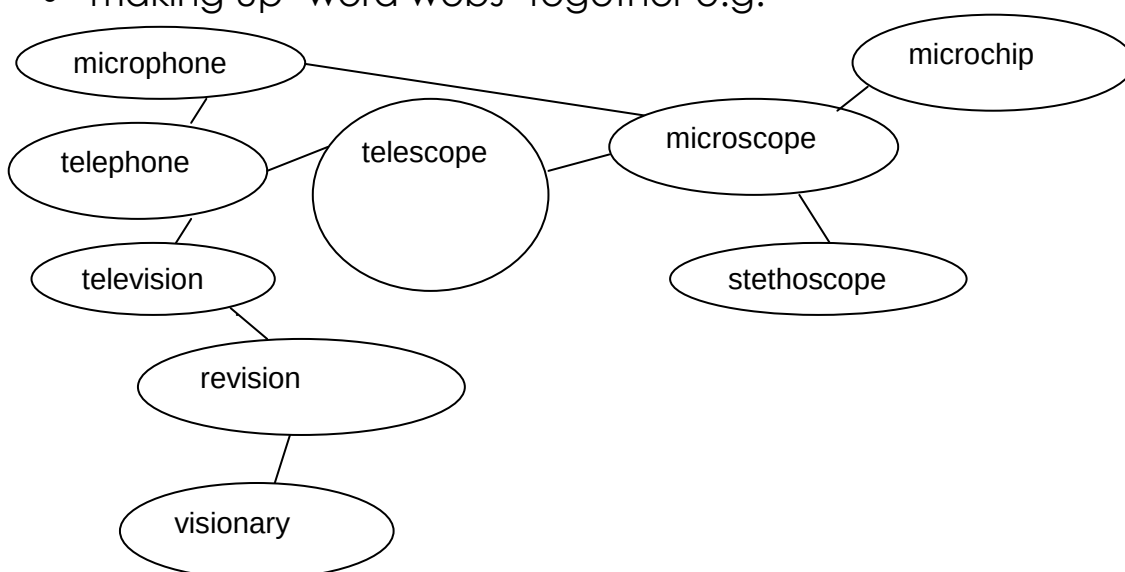
Pupils will continue to build the bank of common words they always spell correctly and employ a range of strategies to attempt unfamiliar words.

They will be expected to

- think about the meaning of the word in the context of the sentence
- apply spelling rules and to develop their proof reading skills
- have the skills to use both a dictionary and a thesaurus

You can help by:

- continuing to encourage your child to read widely
- demonstrating an interest in words
- talking about the meanings and possible derivations of words
- playing word games together e.g. *Scrabble*, *Bananagrams* and engaging with other activities such as word-searches and crosswords
- identifying the 'root' word in a longer word e.g. *musician* (*music*), *vicious* (*vice*)
- providing 'real' purposes for using knowledge of alphabetic order e.g. *looking up a telephone number*, *finding a book in the library*
- writing the words your child is learning on cards or post-its and sorting the words in as many different ways as you can think of
- talking to your child about the words he/she is learning to spell at school and discussing some possible ways of remembering the spelling such as singing the letter names as a melody, mispronouncing the word to emphasize its spelling e.g. *Wed-nes-day*
- encouraging breaking words into syllables
- showing how to try out alternative spellings to see which 'looks right'
- highlighting the tricky parts in a word e.g. *separate*, *beautiful*, *weird*
- reminding them about the correct use of capital and lower case letters
- encouraging the '**look, say, cover, write, check**' strategy for learn spellings
- providing a dictionary and illustrated thesaurus – give support with using these
- making up 'word webs' together e.g.



Pictures

H +  ear = hear

W +  hen = when

Spelling Strategies

Elspeth Murano - School Intervention Adviser May 2014

Look Cover Write Check



Look at the walls See if your word is a homophone

- their, there, they're
- root, route
- waist, waste
- air, heir
- compliment, complement
- way, weigh

Words within words

There's a rat in SEPARATE
Who put the para in PARACHUTE
There is ice in JUSTICE

Break down the word into its constituents

dis – illusion – ment
micro – scop – ically
u

Say it as it is spelt

Wed – nez – day

Invent your own mnemonics



Because

Big elephants can always upset small elephants

Necessary

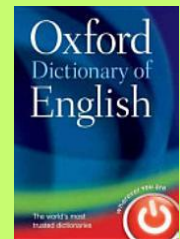
1 collar 2 socks

Word origins

bi = 2
cycle = wheel



Use a dictionary or a subject specific dictionary



Word families

muscle / muscular
gym/gymnast /gymnastics

Syllables

re-mem-ber
Sept-em-ber
yes-ter-day
ba-by

Spelling rules

How the spelling of verbs
alter when **ing** is added

- hop hopping,
- hope hoping,
- picnic picnicking

Break the word down into the sounds

d-i-a-r-y
b-l-e-a-k-n-e-ss
h-u-m-i-d-i-t-y

Letter patterns

bright, fright light,
sight, might

would, could,
should

Prefixes

auto-
bio-
demo-
photo-

Roots

graph -write
scop(e) – look at
log(y)- study

Suffixes

-er
-ic
-ically
-y

Homophones

- their, there, they're
- root, route
- waist, waste
- air, heir
- compliment, complement

We've put together a list of really useful websites with free games and activities that you can introduce to your child to supplement their learning. Just type the blue titles into your search engine and click on the website page:



[BBC Spellits](#) - (Spelling games) (KS2)

[BBC Bitesize](#) (Spelling and grammar) (KS2)

[Arcademic Skill Builders](#) (Literacy and maths games) (KS1 & KS2)

[Crickweb](#) (Literacy and maths educational games) (KS2)

[Kids Spell](#) (Create your own spelling lists & games) (KS1 & KS2)

[Fun Brain](#) (Maths, reading and spelling games) (KS1 & KS2)

[Learning Games for Kids](#) (Spelling and word games) (KS1 & KS2)

[Eduplace.com](#) (Levelled spelling and vocabulary games) (KS1 & KS2)

[PrimaryGames.com](#) (Spelling rules, incl. vowels, blends, plurals etc) (KS1 & KS2)

[ICT Games.com](#) (Look, cover, check game) (KS1 & KS2)

[Manythings.org](#) (Aimed at ESL students but includes useful spelling & vocabulary games) (KS2)

[Spelling city](#) (Vocabulary and spelling interactive activities, printable worksheets, games) (KS2)