

SPaG at Upminster Infant School



Opportunities for teachers to enhance pupils' vocabulary arise naturally from their reading and writing. As vocabulary increases, teachers should show pupils how to understand the relationships between words, how to understand nuances in meaning, and how to develop their understanding of, and ability to use, figurative language. They should also teach pupils how to work out and clarify the meanings of unknown words and words with more than one meaning. References to developing pupils' vocabulary are also included within the appendices.

Pupils should be taught to control their speaking and writing consciously and to use Standard English. They should be taught to use the elements of spelling, grammar, punctuation and 'language about language' listed. This is not intended to constrain or restrict teachers' creativity, but simply to provide the structure on which they can construct exciting lessons.

The National Curriculum in England

Key Stages 1 and 2 Framework Document, Sept. 2013

At Upminster Infant School teachers adopt a range of strategies to teach Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar. As well as being able to spell words correctly, use a wide range of vocabulary and punctuate well, children need to grasp the meaning of grammatical terms such as noun, verb, adjective, prefix, pronoun and adverb. They need to know what phrases and clauses are and how to use them, understand what connectives are and how they work, know how to turn a question into a command, and so on. This terminology can be a stumbling block even for children who are otherwise good at reading and writing, and make questions hard to understand.

As part of the SATs there is a non-statutory SPaG test. The SPaG test will include questions that assess the following elements of the English Curriculum;

- ✓ Sentence grammar through both identifying and writing sentence that are grammatically correct
- ✓ Punctuation through identifying and writing sentence that are correctly punctuated
- ✓ Vocabulary through identifying and writing sentences in which a word is used correctly
- ✓ Spelling through identifying and writing correctly spelt words

Our Year Two children are using **the school spelling scheme along with common exception words** to enhance their spelling skills.