



Hollin Primary School
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Headteacher: David Fenton

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Pupil Voice – Writing

September 2023

In September 2023, we gained the views of pupils with a focus on writing. Two pupils from each class from Year 1-Year 6 (*one boy and one girl*) were invited to share their views. The responses, analysis and next steps can be viewed below.

Year 1B

Do you write at home?

	Yes	Sometimes	No
1.	✓		
2.	✓		

Do you enjoy writing at school?

	Yes	Sometimes	No
1.	✓		
2.	✓		

Do you feel happy when you are writing?

	Yes	Sometimes	No
1.	✓		
2.	✓		

What helps you at school, when you are writing?

- *I look at the sounds on the board.*
- *My teacher.*

Do you find anything challenging when writing?

- *A couple of green words, not all of them.*
- *No.*

When your teacher says that you are going to be doing some writing, what goes through your mind?

- *It makes me feel happy.*
- *I want to learn everything.*

What things could we do at Hollin to help you enjoy writing?

- *Learn new things.*



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Year 1RD

Do you write at home?

	Yes	Sometimes	No
1.	✓		
2.		✓	

Do you enjoy writing at school?

	Yes	Sometimes	No
1.	✓		
2.	✓		

Do you feel happy when you are writing?

	Yes	Sometimes	No
1.	✓		
2.		✓	

What helps you at school, when you are writing?

- *I look at the board to help me.*
- *My teacher helps me. I look at theirs to help me.*
- *There are capital letters to help us with capitals.*

Do you find anything challenging when writing?

- *Sometimes – it is a bit hard, but it's still fun.*
- *When it isn't on the board.*

When your teacher says that you are going to be doing some writing, what goes through your mind?

- *I wonder what we are going to do today. I feel good, I really like it.*
- *I feel happy.*

What things could we do at Hollin to help you enjoy writing?

- *More drawing with my writing.*
- *Trace things.*



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Year 2C

Do you write at home?

	Yes	Sometimes	No
1.		✓	
2.			✓

Do you enjoy writing at school?

	Yes	Sometimes	No
1.	✓		
2.	✓		

Do you feel happy when you are writing?

	Yes	Sometimes	No
1.	✓		
2.	✓		

What helps you at school, when you are writing?

- *The things around me. There are words.*
- *Things in front of me and things on the board.*

Do you find anything challenging when writing?

- *No.*
- *No – it's easy.*

When your teacher says that you are going to be doing some writing, what goes through your mind?

- *I am happy and I enjoy it.*
- *I like learning new stuff and my ABCs.*

What things could we do at Hollin to help you enjoy writing?

- *Extra words to help me and writing more.*
- *Interesting books to help me write.*



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Year 2T

Do you write at home?

	Yes	Sometimes	No
1.	✓		
2.			✓

Do you enjoy writing at school?

	Yes	Sometimes	No
1.	✓		
2.		✓	

Do you feel happy when you are writing?

	Yes	Sometimes	No
1.		✓	
2.		✓	

What helps you at school, when you are writing?

- Remembering how to hold my pencil.
- The words on the wall.

Do you find anything challenging when writing?

- No.

When your teacher says that you are going to be doing some writing, what goes through your mind?

- I like writing, but it's too easy.
- Sometimes it is hard, and sometimes it is easy.

What things could we do at Hollin to help you enjoy writing?

- Fun games. You could make games for handwriting.



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Year 3H

Do you write at home?

	Yes	Sometimes	No
1.		✓	
2.			✓

Do you enjoy writing at school?

	Yes	Sometimes	No
1.	✓		
2.	✓		

Do you feel happy when you are writing?

	Yes	Sometimes	No
1.		✓	
2.		✓	

What helps you at school, when you are writing?

- *My teacher and things near the board.*
- *The motivational quotes near the board help me to feel confident.*

Do you find anything challenging when writing?

- *Yes – Big Writes or spellings.*
- *Big Writes – they take a long time and I don't have much patience.*

When your teacher says that you are going to be doing some writing, what goes through your mind?

- *I am going to do my best.*
- *I think that I am not going to be able to do it and I don't feel very confident.*

What things could we do at Hollin to help you enjoy writing?

- *A spelling sheet to help me with my tricky words.*
- *I like to write factfiles. I don't like writing stories very much.*



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Year 4G

Do you write at home?

	Yes	Sometimes	No
1.	✓		
2.	✓		

Do you enjoy writing at school?

	Yes	Sometimes	No
1.	✓		
2.	✓		

Do you feel happy when you are writing?

	Yes	Sometimes	No
1.	✓		
2.	✓		

What helps you at school, when you are writing?

- We have French fries with synonyms on to help us. So you can pick a synonym and find a different word for it.
- We have dictionaries too and things to help us remember our finger spaces.

Do you find anything challenging when writing?

- Yes I do – Big Writes. We have just done one, but it was a short one. It was a Kennings poem. It was hard, because you have to remember what it looks like and remember noun, hyphen, verb and then leave a line.
- Not really

When your teacher says that you are going to be doing some writing, what goes through your mind?

- My first thought is what we are going to write about.
- I feel excited that I get to write something.

What things could we do at Hollin to help you enjoy writing?

- You could have a Key Stage One writing club, to help them improve their writing.
- More 100 word challenges

Handwriting pens

-Neither pupil had previously achieved their pen license and are now enjoying being able to write in pen. Mrs Brokenbrow asked them how they were finding the pens.

- I like writing in pen. It makes your writing stand out more.
- It is the same shade and it looks good in your book.
- You can join better.
- You don't have to sharpen your pencil, so you can just concentrate on writing.



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Year 5S

Do you write at home?

	Yes	Sometimes	No
1.		✓	
2.		✓	

Do you enjoy writing at school?

	Yes	Sometimes	No
1.	✓		
2.	✓		

Do you feel happy when you are writing?

	Yes	Sometimes	No
1.	✓		
2.	✓		

What helps you at school, when you are writing?

- *We have sheets with fronted adverbials which are laminated, to help us.*
- *Dictionaries and thesaurus. They help you to find words.*
- *We have displays too, with FANBOYS and other things on to help us.*

Do you find anything challenging when writing?

- *Sometimes my punctuation.*
- *I have thick pens and I find it harder to write with them.*
- *When my pen is about to run out.*
- *All the different types of sentences. (terminology)*

When your teacher says that you are going to be doing some writing, what goes through your mind?

- *Fronted adverbials. I think of those, because you start sentences with them. Not every sentence, but often at the start of a paragraph.*
- *If I should use adjectives or even embedded clauses. We have just learnt about those and those are challenging.*

What things could we do at Hollin to help you enjoy writing?

- *Fact files. We did a Deadly 60 fact file in Year 4 with lots of different pockets and things. It was really fun.*
- *Creative big writes, not just writing on a piece of paper.*
- *Treats when we have finished our Big Writes.*
- *Being able to take our shoes off as it helps us to relax. We did this in Year 4.*



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Handwriting pens

-Both pupils had previously achieved their pen license before they began Year 5. Mrs Brokenbrow asked them how they were finding the pens.

- *It is really fun writing in pen. It helps me to improve my presentation.*
- *I like writing in pencil in my Maths book though, in case I make a mistake.*
- *When you get older, you have to write essays, and using pens helps you to get used to it and be able to practise at school.*

Year 5M

Do you write at home?

	Yes	Sometimes	No
1.	✓		
2.			✓

Do you enjoy writing at school?

	Yes	Sometimes	No
1.	✓		
2.		✓	

Do you feel happy when you are writing?

	Yes	Sometimes	No
1.	✓		
2.	✓		

What helps you at school, when you are writing?

- *When I start writing, I just go for it.*
- *There are displays to help us with things like alliteration, colons and semi colons. We can look at them and put them into our writing.*
- *We have dictionaries too.*

Do you find anything challenging when writing?

- *Including speech in my writing. It can be hard.*
- *Spelling - sometimes I use a dictionary to help me.*

When your teacher says that you are going to be doing some writing, what goes through your mind?

- *I don't really like writing, but I am good at it.*
- *I hear writing, and I like it. I want to write a story when I am older and be an author. I want to write and draw the pictures.*



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What things could we do at Hollin to help you enjoy writing?

- *Authors coming to see us. They can help us to form ideas for paragraphs, and tell us how to write a book.*

Handwriting pens

-1 of the pupils had previously achieved their pen license. Mrs Brokenbrow asked them how they were finding the pens.

- *The pupils explained that pupils in Year 5M are not currently using pens to write.*

Year 6M

Do you write at home?

	Yes	Sometimes	No
1.	✓		
2.		✓	

Do you enjoy writing at school?

	Yes	Sometimes	No
1.	✓		
2.	✓		

Do you feel happy when you are writing?

	Yes	Sometimes	No
1.	✓		
2.	✓		

What helps you at school, when you are writing?

- *Dictionaries and thesaurus*
- *Display that are on the wall. They have conjunctions, adjectives and nouns.*

Do you find anything challenging when writing?

- *It is personal to me. I get carried away and write too much. I have too many ideas.*
- *I have to write my ideas down as soon as I think about them, before I forget. I can do that when I am drafting.*

When your teacher says that you are going to be doing some writing, what goes through your mind?

- *I get a little bit nervous because I don't know if it is going to be easy or hard.*
- *I don't want to write too much.*

What things could we do at Hollin to help you enjoy writing?

- *I think a display near the hall, like a hunt game, would be good. Maybe for World Book Day. Where you can find ideas for your story. Like a flow chart where you can select different things.*



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Handwriting pens

-Neither pupil had previously achieved their pen license and are now enjoying being able to write in pen. Mrs Brokenbrow asked them how they were finding the pens.

- *The purple ones keep leaking and the ink goes everywhere.*
- *My handwriting gets better when I write in pen and it looks better in my book.*
- *It is annoying when I make a mistake, because I can't rub it out.*

Analysis

44% of pupils said that they write at home.

33% of pupils said that they sometimes write at home.

22% of pupils said that they don't do any writing at home.

89% of pupils said that they enjoy writing at school.

11% of pupils said that they sometimes enjoy writing at school.

72% of pupils said that they feel happy when they are writing at school.

28% of pupils said that they sometimes feel happy when they are writing at school.

Next steps

1. Class teachers to look for opportunities to plan and implement creative ways of presenting Big Writes. Some pupils expressed that they prefer writing non-fiction.
2. Ensure all pupils in Key Stage Two have access to handwriting pens. Continue to gather pupil voice over the course of the year, to determine their preference for the pens that are available.
3. Offer opportunities for pupils to meet, and work alongside authors.
4. Develop opportunities for pupils to engage in writing activities, at home. Continue with termly writing challenges.