



'Together We Grow'

Smithdown Primary School

Marking and Feedback Policy

Reviewed annually

Last reviewed: September 2025

‘Together We Grow’

Our Key Values

Our school motto is ‘Together we Grow’.

We ensure that every child has access to a broad, balanced and supportive curriculum. Through this we are able to give our pupils a range of opportunities and experiences to grow and develop academically, physically socially and morally.

Our School Vision

At Smithdown Primary School, we aim high for every member of our community—pupils, parents, and staff. We are committed to creating a happy, safe, and stimulating environment where children are inspired to learn and grow together. We have high expectations of ourselves and each other and we equip our pupils to face opportunities and challenges with confidence, resilience, and determination. We nurture curiosity about the world and strive to develop children who make a positive contribution—both now and in the future.

At Smithdown Primary school, we believe that marking and feedback should serve a single purpose – to advance pupil progress and outcomes. An important element of this is to acknowledge the work a pupil has done, to value their efforts and achievement, and to celebrate success and progress.

At Smithdown, we recognise three principles that underpin effective marking; marking should be:

- ✓ Meaningful
- ✓ Motivating
- ✓ Manageable

Meaningful: we recognise that marking will vary by age group, subject, and what works best for the pupil and teacher in relation to any particular piece of work. Teachers are encouraged to adjust their approach as necessary and trusted to incorporate the outcomes into subsequent planning and teaching.

At Smithdown, we trust that our teachers are clear about what they are trying to achieve and that they know the best way of achieving it. Therefore, we recognise that the most important person in deciding what is appropriate feedback is the teacher. Written or oral feedback, working with pupils in class and reading their work are some of the ways that our staff identify what pupils can do and understand.

Motivating: Marking should help to motivate pupils to progress. Sometimes this may be a tick to show that the work is correct or may be through a comment. On many occasions, verbal feedback is used for support and progression.

In addition to this, we recognise the value of self and peer assessment. At Smithdown, our pupils are taught and encouraged to check their own work by understanding the lesson objective so that they can complete, and assess, their work to the highest standard. Pupils may be asked to review their work using a purple pen.

Manageable: this is crucial to ensure that our teachers have adequate time to plan the appropriate next steps to help the children progress. We do not expect teachers to spend more time on marking than the children do in producing the work!

Consistency across the school

To ensure consistency across the school, the following have been agreed:

- ✓ Feedback can take the form of spoken feedback or written marking, peer marking and self-assessment.
- ✓ The focus of marking is on the quality of feedback and not the quantity.
- ✓ Marking must be sensitive to pupil needs and must not “obliterate” pupil’s work
- ✓ All marking will be written in a clear and legible script.
- ✓ The marking code will be followed (see appendix 1)
- ✓ The marking code will be displayed in the learning environment
- ✓ Marking should also comment on presentation, if below expected standards.

Marking

- (A) Well done -objective achieved
- (AS) Objective achieved with support
- (FW) Further work has taken place
- () Capital letter needed
- sp Spelling mistake
- // New paragraph needed
- ↑ Missing punctuation
- Λ A word is missing
- ~~~~~ Read this through again - it doesn't make sense