



ST. EDWARD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope this message finds you well. We are writing to address a few isolated queries that have been raised regarding the current approach to spelling practice and assessment within school.

Grouping of Spellings - One query concerned the change from three differentiated spelling groups to a single list for all pupils. This decision reflects updated guidance from the Department for Education, which places emphasis on mastering key spelling elements such as common exception words, possessive apostrophes, and consistent spelling patterns. As previously outlined, most primary schools that continue to practise and test spellings do so using the word lists appropriate for each year group. This ensures consistency and supports all children in meeting national expectations. If your Child would like to access extra spellings, please feel free to supplement this offer at home.

Number of Words in a List Another query noted that some spelling lists contain more than ten words. To clarify, children are expected to practise the full list, and ten words are then selected from it for assessment. This approach encourages deeper learning and understanding of spelling rules, rather than memorising a fixed sequence of words. It is important that children engage with the words in context and apply their knowledge flexibly, which is a more meaningful and lasting way to learn.

Weekly Spelling Lists and Scores Spellings will continue to be sent home weekly in paper form. At the top of each sheet, you will find your child's score from the previous week. If any adjustments have been made to the number of words your child is expected to learn, this will be clearly indicated, with words highlighted as some Children may be asked to focus on just five words if appropriate, otherwise they will be practising the full list in preparation for an assessment of ten selected words, as outlined above.

Final Note on Our Approach We appreciate your engagement and support in your child's learning journey. Please be assured that this is the school's established approach to spelling, developed in line with national guidance and best practice. No further adjustments will be made to the structure of the spelling programme. Our aim is to ensure clarity and consistency for all.

With kind regards,

Mr. T Carroll

Mr T Carroll
Head of School

Mrs L. Flanagan

Mrs L Flanagan
Executive Headteacher

'We carry the light of Christ as we love, live, learn and look after each other'

