**New Swannington Primary School Spellings Policy**

**The importance of teaching spellings**

Spelling must be taught in a clear and systematic way if we are to ensure that the key skills of transcription are secured for all children, enabling them to focus their attention on the composition of writing. By promoting a curiosity around words and the pursuit of pattern seeking, we can help children to become word detectives, providing them with life-long strategies as spellers.

**Aims**

In teaching spelling, we aim to ensure that all children;

* See the link between phonics and match the most likely grapheme to the sound heard
* Investigate hypotheses about spelling patterns, drawing their own conclusions
* Develop the skills of how to segment spoken words
* Have opportunities to write dictated sentences that include words taught so far to apply and practise their spellings
* Develop automaticity in spelling

**Teaching and Organisation**

Spellings are taught every day. Children in EYFS are introduced to graphemes and the skills of segmenting, using Essential Letters Sounds Synthetic Phonics Scheme to see how words are written. In Year 1 they continue to develop their ability to spell by reinforcing the link between phonics and spellings, being taught explicitly what the most likely grapheme is and why this is the case.

In years 2-6, children follow the ‘Jane Considine Spelling Books’ approach which encourages ‘probability matching’ through investigation and the development of an understanding of the morphology and etymology of words. This follows a 2 week cycle of an investigation, a break-down of a set of tricky words and ‘short burst’ daily tasks that revisit and apply new learning.

**Assessment**

A baseline assessment is made at the start of the year and then at the end of each term, monitoring progress and allowing support to be targeted where needed. Parents know that spellings are a high priority but that they are not required to learn lists with their children at home.

**This policy was reviewed in September 2021**