



## Drawing Club Rationale

Within our CELT Trust's exploration of Early Writing, we recognise a prevailing trend where children's literacy activities in reception classrooms are increasingly structured towards achieving measurable outcomes. In response, we want to align early writing opportunities with our CELT ethos which emphasises and values to importance of play. We want to ensure our curriculum embraces a broad perspective on mark-making, drawing, and writing in a playful way, drawing inspiration from Froebelian principles of self-direction, self-expression, and creative exploration. We aim to understand and encourage 'playfulness' as a natural way of being, and explore how 'playful' mark-making, drawing and writing can help children see themselves as writers and improve their writing skills.

In our EYFS Reception classes, writing consistently emerges as the lowest scoring strand, often hindering children from achieving a 'good level of development' by the year's end. In our learning environments children are not choosing to write independently and they are therefore not getting the practice needed to become confident and capable writers. Drawing Club presents a solution, offering an empowering platform to enhance writing engagement while fostering creativity.

Through Drawing Club, children not only refine their writing skills but also develop language proficiency, fine motor skills, and form meaningful connections with their teachers and their peers. They can see the purpose for writing and demonstrate the 'want' to write. Additionally, Drawing Club addresses the significant vocabulary gap observed at age five. Children who are read to daily know 296,600 words compared to those who are not read to who know just 4,622. The daily vocabulary section of Drawing Club will significantly help to close this gap. Drawing Club is a tool to widen children's vocabulary not only through the story but with the teacher's selection of additional vocabulary that is shared each day.

In conclusion, we envision Drawing Club as a space of playful exploration, inspiring children to express themselves with confidence and creativity through their writing. As referenced in our CELT EYFS ethos we are guided by the Froebelian principle of 'Freedom with guidance'. Drawing Club will establish a nurturing environment where children are encouraged to explore and write freely, whilst receiving targeted next steps to scaffold their writing journey. This will ensure that all children gain the skills required to meet the criteria for the writing ELG, removing this barrier towards GLD for all learners.