

The Education Alliance: *Written feedback*

Educational research is unequivocal about the importance of high quality feedback. It allows students to understand what is going well and what they need to do to improve their knowledge and understanding.

Schools within The Education Alliance use a wide variety of techniques to provide effective and timely feedback based on available research and through an ongoing programme of continued professional development. Written feedback is an important element of this and allows students to respond and develop their work at appropriate times throughout the year.

Over time, unhelpful practices have evolved so that some of what a teacher does is not having the impact intended. The 2016 report of the ***Independent Teacher Workload Review Group*** noted that written marking had become unnecessarily burdensome for teachers and recommended that all marking should be driven by professional judgement and be “meaningful, manageable and motivating”. Recruitment and retention in schools is becoming increasingly challenging with recent national surveys citing burdensome marking policies as the main reason teachers leave the profession. We have therefore refined our approach based on the following 3 key principles:

- Improving students’ performance
- Based on evidence of what works
- Manageable and reasonable in terms of workload so that we continue to recruit and retain the best teachers in our schools for our students

The following features have been agreed by subject specialists across the organisation:

- We may mark less in terms of number of pieces of work but with greater impact
- There will be no acknowledgement marking
- Written feedback will nearly always be followed with student response time that encourages deeper responses but avoids practices such as triple marking
- Key pieces of work will be identified for detailed feedback within the curriculum
- Each subject will agree their approach developed by subject experts and outlined as a set of appendices to this overview

Quality Assurance: Formal quality assurance will always involve a subject specialist. The focus of work scrutiny will be to look at how the student is progressing and how successfully the curriculum is being implemented. It will not focus on what the teacher writes, but on the impact this has had.

Marking for Literacy: In subjects where there is extended writing, the teacher will also use the following codes when marking for literacy.

sp	Spelling error
©	Capital letter error
O	Missing full stop
P	Incorrect or missing punctuation
Λ	Missing word/phrase
SS	Sentence structure error (i.e. fragmented sentence)
T	Error in tense
//	New paragraph needed
?	Sentence/word doesn’t make sense
SL	Slang used: needs to be changed into Standard English