

SMART Spelling Professional Development & Teaching at HSS

Last term, all teachers participated in 5 hours of online professional development on SMART spelling with Michelle Hutchison. The SMART spelling approach is now being taught in all classes at Holy Spirit School.

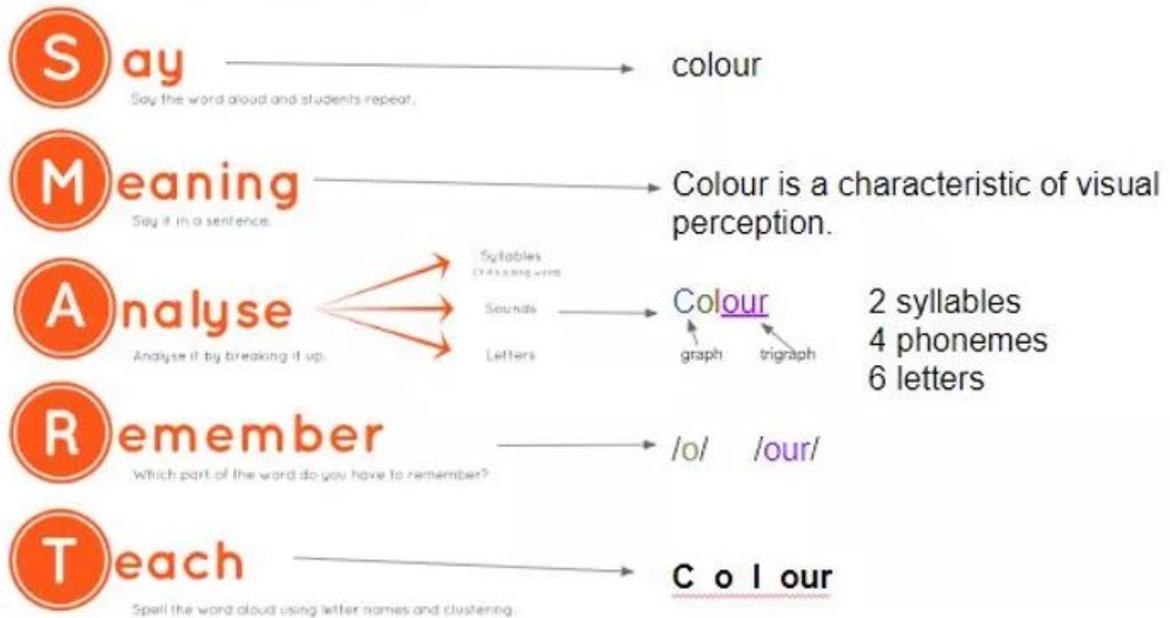
Teachers start by teaching the meaning of words to expand vocabulary and then break words into syllables, sounds and letter patterns (graphs, digraphs and trigraphs) following a simple routine that is in the SMART Spelling course.

In a SMART Spelling classroom, students are explicitly taught spelling patterns, one at a time. Teachers choose a range of words (from simple to complex) from a suggested list in the manual. Students are then guided to choose from that list, to meet different needs. Personal words are also a focus in SMART Spelling. Teachers give meaningful feedback to students about their spelling in writing, teaching at the point of need.

Things you can do at home to help your child practice spelling!

1. Help them identify words they have spelt incorrectly in their writing.
2. When you find a word they need help with, don't cross it out and write it for them. They need to fix the word, not you! Instead, tick the individual letters that are correct, and underline the parts of the word they haven't got right **yet**. Then help them find the right way to spell the word using some of the strategies below.
3. Go through elements of the SMART sequence with them (see below). For example, find the word's meaning and put it in a sentence. Discuss how you would use the word. Find out the number of syllables, letters and phonemes. Ask them to focus on the part of the word they find tricky. [Watch Michelle's video](#) in which she goes through the sequence.
4. Ask your child to spell the word in a variety of ways. Younger children love making them out of Play-Doh. Test them to see if they can remember the word. Practice, practice, practice!
6. When reading a book together, pick out interesting words and talk about them.
7. When driving, play word games and set spelling challenges.

The SMART Spelling sequence is what teachers use to teach spelling in a sensible and systematic way.



Using the word colour as an example, we work with our students to

Say the word

Meaning: put it in context and discuss variations

Analyse it in terms of syllables, sounds and letters

Remember it by focusing on the parts of the word we need to remember, and then

Teach it by spelling the word aloud using letter names and clustering.