



Handwriting Policy

Introduction

Handwriting is a skill which, like reading and spelling, affects written communication across the curriculum. Children must be able to write with ease, speed and legibility. Cursive handwriting teaches pupils to join letters and words as a series of flowing movements and patterns. The development of this fluid style when mastered allows children to apply their energy into the content of their writing as opposed to the formation of the letters themselves. Handwriting skills are taught regularly and systematically throughout the school.

Aims

- To enable children to write in a consistent, well presented and legible format.
- To have a consistent approach across EYFS, Key Stage 1 and 2 when teaching handwriting.

Curriculum organisation

Children will be taught to:

- hold a pencil correctly using a comfortable tripod grip;
- adopt the correct posture for writing;
- position the paper correctly;
- use the correct pressure when writing.

EYFS (Reception)

Children will be encouraged to develop gross motor control through the use of large equipment for mark making such as big chinks, paint brushes, finger paints etc. They will develop their fine motor skills and use a range of mark making tools such as pencils, pens and crayons. All children take part in daily 'Squiggle while you Wiggle' sessions to develop fine and gross motor skills.

Children will be taught to form letters correctly starting using Read Write Inc's guidance on letter formation using the RWI mnemonics to aid the correct letter formation. Letter formation is taught alongside phonic development. Our aim is that by the end of foundation stage all children hold a pencil correctly and form all letters and numbers correctly. Errors in pencil grip and letter formation will be immediately addressed, modelled and corrected.

Key Stage One

In Key Stage 1 all children should receive a daily handwriting session. This is usually part of a RWI session. Fine and gross motor activities support the handwriting curriculum as appropriate.

Key Stage Two

In Years 3-4, children will receive weekly handwriting lessons, as well as opportunities to practice handwriting linked to spelling and dictation. Linked activities such as patterning and other fine motor activities will be used to support handwriting and ensure children are ready and 'warmed up' when writing longer pieces.

In Years 5-6 it is expected that the majority of children will use cursive handwriting in all areas of the curriculum. Handwriting lessons may take place to address particular areas identified by class teachers.

Additional support

If any child is not on track to reach these expectations, they will receive additional support through small group interventions.

Children may use pencil grips or a range of writing implements (e.g. differently shaped pencils, pens with grips etc) depending on individual need.

Assessment and Monitoring

A uniformed handwriting style should be consistent throughout the school. This will be evident in work samples and monitored through lesson observations and book scrutiny. The English Leader and SLT are responsible for monitoring handwriting throughout the school.

Policy created: October 2022 (E Jackson)

Policy reviewed: July 2023

Review date: July 2024

Linked policies:

English Policy

Assessment Policy