

Handwriting Guidelines

We use the New Nelson scheme adapted to our school's needs.

All letters are joined except capital letters.

The National Literacy Strategy and the Foundation Stage guide-lines for handwriting have been combined with our own targets to produce these guidelines.

Foundation Stage

- To use a comfortable and efficient pencil grip so as to use a pencil and hold it effectively.
- To produce a controlled line which supports letter formation.
- To write letters using the correct sequence of movements so as to form recognisable letters most of which are correctly formed.

It is envisaged that by the end of the Foundation Stage 10% of children will be writing with a cursive script.

Year 1

Term 1 & 2

- To develop a comfortable and efficient pencil grip.
- To correctly form lower case letters and capital letters.
- To rehearse joined script.

It is envisaged that 20% of children will write in a cursive script by the end of the autumn terms.

Term 3 & 4

- To practise cursive handwriting in conjunction with spelling and independent writing, ensuring correct letter orientation, formation and proportion.

It is envisaged that 30% of children will be using cursive script by the end of the spring terms

Term 3

- To practise cursive handwriting in conjunction with spelling and independent writing, ensuring correct letter orientation, formation and proportion.

It is envisaged that at the end of Year 1 40% of children will be writing with a cursive script.

Year 2

Terms 1 & 2

- To practise handwriting patterns from Year 1.
- To begin using and practising the 4 basic handwriting joins.
 - diagonal joins to letters without ascenders e.g. ai, ar, un
 - horizontal joins to letters without ascenders e.g. ou, vi, wi
 - diagonal joins to letters with ascenders e.g. ab, ul, it
 - horizontal joins to letters with ascenders e.g. ol, wh, ot

It is envisaged that 50% of children will be using cursive script by the end of the autumn terms.

Terms 3 & 4

- To practise handwriting patterns from Year 1.
- To practise handwriting in conjunction with the phonic and spelling patterns as above

It is envisaged that 70% of children will be using cursive script by the end of the spring terms.

Terms 5 & 6

As above

It is envisaged that 90% of children will use cursive script at the end of the terms.

Write Dance

All children will experience Write Dance every week. Children will explore gross and smaller handwriting movements to music to support their understanding of letter shape, orientation and proportion. Other activities will be planned to develop gross and fine motor development both in small and large group time as well as in P.E. sessions. The physical aspects of writing are considered to be a high priority when aiding the child to be successful fluent writers.

Handwriting Lessons

In Year 1 and Year 2 children will need regular weekly handwriting lessons as well as daily practise writing common phonic patterns or H.F.W. They will need to sit facing the whiteboard when copying the teacher. Warm up to these sessions may include Write Dance movements to music. Good sitting position and pencil grip is important. It is expected that teachers and teaching assistants provide children with good models of scripts around the classroom and in everyday practise. Labels around the room should display a range of styles but in the majority be handwritten and cursive.