



Handwriting Policy

We aim for our pupils to develop a neat, legible, speedy handwriting style using continuous cursive letters that leads to producing letters and words automatically in independent writing.

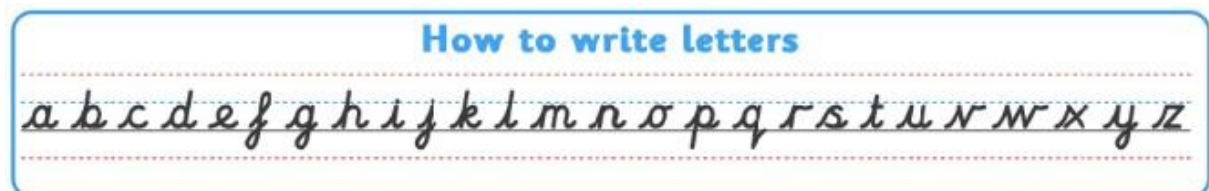
Method

Teachers will use neat, joined-up cursive writing for all handwriting tasks, particularly when marking and writing on the whiteboard or working walls. Pupils will experience coherence and continuity in the learning and teaching of handwriting across all school years and be encouraged to take pride in the presentation of their work. Our aim is to help pupils enjoy learning and developing their handwriting with a sense of achievement and pride.

Handwriting should build on the following steps:

1. Readiness for writing: gross and fine motor skills leading to letter formation
2. Beginning to join
3. Securing joins
4. Practising speed and fluency
5. Presentation skills

Agreed Letter Formation



Capital letters

Capital letters stand alone and are not joined to the next letter. Children must practise starting sentences and writing proper nouns using a capital letter and not joining the subsequent letter. This should be modelled by the teacher.

Key Stage 1

Some children's handwriting may be at KS1 level and therefore they need to be able to do the following to be able to build on the skills:

Write legibly using upper- and lower-case letters with correct joins.

Ensure that letters sit on the base line and are consistent in size with ascenders and descenders that are the correct length and formation.

Teachers and support staff continue to guide children on how to write letters correctly, using a comfortable and efficient pencil grip.

Leave the correct space between words.

Form numerals that are consistent in size and sit on the base line.

Begin to form printed letters and understand when they are to be used. E.g. to label diagrams

Improve the speed of writing and begin to write automatically to enable creativity in independent writing.

Key Stage 2

Ensure letters are consistently sized with equal word spacing and that ascenders and descenders are parallel and do not touch words on the lines above and below.

Improve speed of handwriting to allow creative writing to take precedence over the task of handwriting.

Have the strength and mobility to be able to write for longer periods of time without fatigue.

By the end of Year 6, children should have developed a clear, fluent style and be able to adapt their handwriting for different purposes, such as: a neat, legible hand for finished, presented work, a faster script for note making and the ability to print for labelling diagrams etc.

Left-Handed Children

Left-handed pupils should sit to the left of a right-handed child so that they are not competing for space.

Pencils should not be held too close to the point as this can interrupt pupils' line of vision.

Extra practice with left-to-right exercises may be necessary before pupils write left-to-right automatically.

The use of pens

Children use a soft pencil for all handwriting and are given the opportunity to publish their work in pen to create a greater sense of pride in these final drafts.

Resources

The Twinkl Handwriting scheme can be used to support teaching, follow the '**Journey to Continuous Cursive**' programme, which includes letter family activity packs -

<https://www.teachhandwriting.co.uk/> is a great website for resources and provides handwriting animations for each letter – **continuous cursive** is the chosen formation.