



## Intent

Handwriting is fundamental to our children's educational achievement. It is a developmental process which, like reading and spelling, affects written communication across the curriculum. Children must be able to write with ease, speed and legibility. A flexible, fluent and legible handwriting style empowers children to write with confidence and creativity. We teach children to print first, progressing to joining at the age of 7 years old.

Once mastered, this 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, following the *Penpals* scheme of work.

Our aims in teaching handwriting are:

To enable children to write in a consistent, well presented and legible format.

To have a consistent approach across Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and 2 when teaching handwriting.

To ensure that by the end of Year 4 children are using a personalised style for different purposes.

To make sure all children know the difference between lower- and upper-case letters.

To ensure the skills taught at Key Stage 1 continue to develop throughout Key Stage 2.

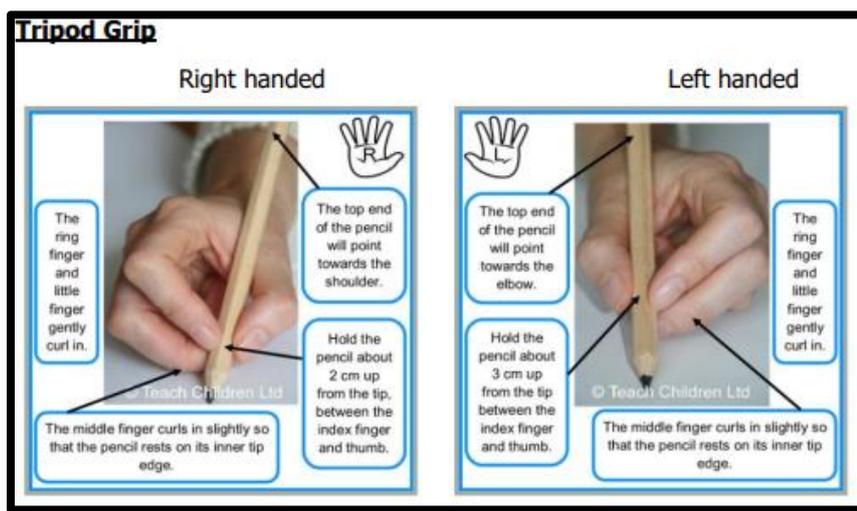
To adopt a consistent approach towards handwriting by all adults when writing in children's books, on the whiteboard or on displays / resources.

## Implementation

Children will be taught to:

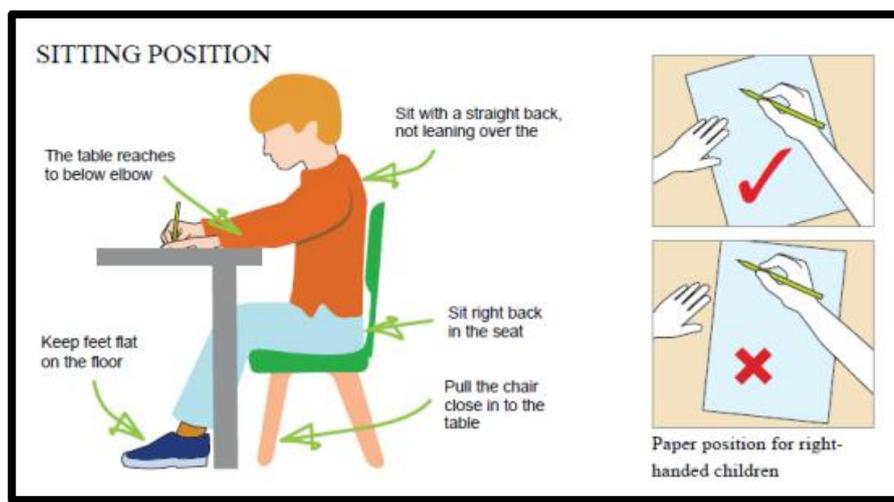
Hold a pencil correctly

Children should be encouraged to use a tripod pencil grip, where the pencil is gripped between the index finger and the thumb. The middle finger is then used to support the underside of the pencil as shown below.



Adopt the correct posture when writing.

Children should be encouraged to adopt the correct writing position as shown below.



Children who are left-handed should reposition the paper the other way and sit to the left-hand side if seated next to a right-handed child.



### **Preschool**

Children will be encouraged to develop gross motor control using large equipment for mark making such as big chalks, paint brushes, finger paints, shaving foam etc. They will develop their fine motor skills and use a range of mark making tools such as pencils, pens and crayons. They will be encouraged to talk about shapes, movement and pattern making.

### **Reception**

Children will be taught to form letters correctly following the *Penpals* scheme of work guidance. Letter formation is taught in letter families and alongside the delivery of our daily phonics. 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 1**

Children will build on their handwriting development in reception, securing their letter formation before being taught to join from year 1. The children will be encouraged to continue the development of basic joins, which they should transfer into their independent writing. They will also continue to link their handwriting to their phonic development as they learn to write new sounds, using any joins they've been taught.

### **Key Stage 2**

Children will continue to follow the *Penpals* scheme of work to build upon the skills they have developed in Key Stage 1. It will be practised discretely and in context, securing joins along with a focus on break letters, legibility, consistency and quality. Children have developed fluency and are encouraged to develop an individual style for speed and legibility by the end of Year 4.

### **Children with Additional Needs**

Children who need additional support with handwriting may use a variety of tools to support them. They may use a pencil grip, have additional fine motor skills activities or attend an intervention group.



### **Assessment**

A uniformed handwriting style should be consistent throughout the school; this will be evident through learning walks, monitoring cycles and book scrutinises.

Children's handwriting will be assessed regularly to ensure common errors are picked up and corrected where necessary.

### **Handwriting Equipment**

Children will use standard HB pencils for writing.

During formal handwriting sessions white boards, handwriting in English books may be used.

Children will use line sizes appropriate to their stage in writing. Initially, foundation children will use unlined paper, as the focus is correct formation rather than size or positioning.

In year 1 children will write in books with a 12mm space between lines.

In year 2 children will write in books with a 10mm space between lines.

In Key Stage 2 children will write in books with an 8mm space between lines.

Children will also use the same sized lines in other curriculum books, so that children's skills are transferable, and that the same expectation of handwriting is set across all writing.

### **Impact**

Handwriting is a skill which affects written communication across the curriculum. Our aim is that children can write with ease, speed, legibility and show pride in their presentation. By the end of Key Stage 2 children will confidently write using flowing movements and patterns.

This handwriting should be demonstrated in all writing across the curriculum. Writing should be fluid in style to allow children to apply their energy into the content of their writing as opposed to the formation of the letters themselves.