

St Peter's CE Primary School



For the children to realise their God-given gifts and talents,

and grow following the example of Jesus

Matthew 19:26- But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible but with God all things are possible"

HANDWRITING POLICY

June 2021

Introduction

At St Peters School, we believe that handwriting is a skill which, like reading and spelling, affects written communication across the curriculum. Given effective teaching, cursive handwriting can be mastered by most pupils by the time they are seven or eight years old, enabling them, with practice, to go on to develop a faster and more mature hand ready for secondary school and adult life.

Aims

We aim for all pupils to:

- produce legible, well-spaced handwriting;
- use correctly formed letters and accurate joins;
- develop spelling patterns through a fluid handwriting action.
- develop a neat and fluent handwriting style.
- develop their phonological awareness

Organisation

Cursive handwriting is taught in school. Cursive handwriting enables children to join characters in a fluid movement without them having to lift their pens or pencils frequently. Teachers use a range of resources including an interactive programme that models the joining of letters to children. Activities will be differentiated and include extension activities which contextualise the handwriting skill into sentence or text level work.

Parents

We believe that for parents to support their children most effectively, it is important for them to be well informed about the handwriting style used and so a help sheet of letters, joins and style will be sent home and is also available online.

Teaching and Learning

Handwriting is taught in a variety of ways, including during whole class sessions, through the daily phonics session, teaching, group work and (where appropriate) individual teaching for children who need more support. When writing for the pupils on the whiteboard, staff will use cursive handwriting that follows the same style and formation that we would expect the children to use.

Teachers may also wish to teach handwriting on an interactive whiteboard. Any teachers wishing to do so make sure that they:

- use the cursive style and formation;
- are aware of the legibility of different 'ink' colours. Red, for example, can be hard to read from a distance;
- stand to one side of the board when writing so all children can see;
- explore the templates or gallery in the IWB software, including lined and squared paper that help guide handwriting and offer a better model.

Foundation Stage

A variety of opportunities are given to pupils to practise forming letters to prepare them for handwriting.

Pupils use media such as sand, shaving foam, modelling clay, paints, whiteboards, weaving and sewing, felt tip pens, crayons and the interactive whiteboard to create patterns and develop their fine motor skills.

When pupils are ready, they take part in daily handwriting sessions which involve drawing letters in the air with the teacher/LSA, practising how to write the letters a-z, and also taking part in weekly sessions which focus on letter formation and spelling patterns. At the end of the Foundation Stage the aim is for all pupils to use a comfortable and efficient pencil grip, to produce a controlled line which supports letter formation, to write the letters a-z, to write letters using the correct sequence of movement and finally, to start their writing on the line so that they are ready to use cursive handwriting.

Key Stage 1

A short taught session of handwriting is delivered weekly to teach new letter formation, patterns or joins. In addition, daily practice for handwriting is conducted as a class, in groups or individually according to any specific needs, during phonics, guided reading and early morning task time. They are given opportunities to practise their handwriting in conjunction with spelling, phonics and independent writing.

Key Stage 2

At lower Key Stage 2, children continue to build on and revise joins. They write in pencil, but move on to Handwriting pens when ready. They must receive a 'Pen Licence' from the teacher, who will test and assess their handwriting capabilities, to be able to do so. This usually takes place in Year 4.

Pupils are also taught to build up speed and use informal writing for notes, drafts and lists.

Monitoring

The school monitors the teaching of handwriting using the following strategies:

- lesson observations by Literacy Subject Leader and Senior Leadership Team;
- pupil interviews;
- evaluating pupils' progress through work sampling in a variety of subjects.

Policy reviewed: July 2021

Next review date: July 2025