



Handwriting Policy

St. John's Primary School

Intent:

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.

Starting in Early Years, children are exposed to pre-cursive handwriting fonts through their rich learning environment, especially during transition time into Year 1, with the expectation that by the end of Year 1, children are **exploring** cursive handwriting through joining up.

At St. John's, by the end of Year 2 we strive for our children to be **confident** in using cursive handwriting. This confidence is built upon throughout their Key Stage 2 years, so pupils can produce neat, fluent, cursive handwriting.

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.

Implementation:

Handwriting skills are taught regularly and systematically throughout the school. At St John's, we follow a systematic, pre-cursive and cursive handwriting scheme, which ensures clear progression from Early Years to our Year 6 pupils. This allows us to adopt a consistent approach, taking our pupils on a journey through the progressive stages suggested in the National Curriculum.

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 the skills taught at Key Stage 1 continue to develop throughout Key Stage 2.
- To ensure that from Year 2 to the end of Year 6 children are using joined up cursive handwriting, with confidence
- To make sure all children know the difference between lower- and upper-case letters.

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

Assessment and Monitoring:

Our handwriting scheme offers assessment materials, so we can pinpoint exactly where pupils are in their development. This means that lessons, and possibly interventions groups can be tailored to ability level and follow National Curriculum aims.

A uniformed handwriting style should be consistent throughout the school; this will be evident on display boards and monitored through lesson observations and book scrutiny.

Handwriting will be monitored by the SLT and Subject Leads and information regarding this will be fed back to teachers. If needed, strategies will be put in place to provide children with support to acquire the skills in Key Stage 2. Monitoring will take place during the half termly book trawls. All work at St Johns must be aspirational and the books (handwriting) must reflect this.

The specific font used in classroom environments – display boards/ table resources and teacher modelling will be as follows:

Pre-cursive

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

Cursive looped

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Impact

Handwriting is a skill which affects written communication across the curriculum. Our aim is that children can write with ease, speed, and legibility. By Year 6, children will use cursive handwriting 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.