

Handwriting at Harrow Gate Academy

Intent

At Harrow Gate Primary academy, our intent is to enable children to write legibly, fluently and comfortably.

We know that from a very early age 'good writers' develop fluent handwriting so that it becomes automatic. Once they have mastered the skill, they rarely need to expend much mental energy on their handwriting, so they can concentrate on tailoring their content for an audience, selecting appropriate vocabulary and more.

In stark contrast, students with handwriting difficulties can have their thinking slowed, and as their **working memory is strained** by the process of forming legible letters, words and sentences, their focus on spelling and organising ideas into paragraphs etc. can suffer. Weak writers may even suffer a **vicious circle**: to hide their spelling issues, they may try to keep their writing unclear, attempting to mask their attempts at certain words with small, deliberately ambiguous letter formations.

Issues with handwriting can extend into adolescence and may have a damaging effect on student attainment. Without fluency, a student can struggle at all levels of understanding.

The handwriting rich get richer and the poor get poorer. (Alex Quigley 2017)

Implementation

At Harrow Gate Primary Academy, we follow the **Letter-join whole school handwriting scheme** programme from EYFS to Year 6. Letter-join is a practical, active learning approach that supports the delivery of handwriting teaching. Each year group has the interactive software, teaching guide and practice materials. Each unit is discretely taught is a 20-30 minute lesson each week with follow up sessions where necessary.



Objective

Handwriting is a basic skill that influences the quantity of written work throughout the curriculum. By the end of Key Stage 2 all pupils should have the ability to produce fluent, legible, joined-up handwriting, and to understand the different forms of handwriting used for different purposes. Our intention is to make handwriting an automatic process that does not interfere with creative and mental thinking.

Aims:

- To build fine and gross motor skills needed to develop early letter formation in a fun and engaging way.
- To develop a neat, legible, handwriting style using continuous cursive letters, which leads to producing letters and words automatically in independent writing.
- To establish and maintain high expectations for the presentation of written work.
- For pupils to understand, by the end of Year 6, the importance of neat presentation and the need for different letterforms (cursive, printed or capital letters) to help communicate meaning clearly.

Expectations

To ensure consistency throughout the school, all teaching staff are encouraged to model the cursive style (KS2) in all their handwriting, including whiteboards, displays or when giving feedback in pupils' books. Wherever possible, worksheets should also be in cursive script and used minimally to encourage children's writing. Pupils should 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 objective is to help pupils enjoy learning and developing their handwriting with a sense of achievement and pride.

Impact

Children will be able to children to **write legibly, fluently and comfortably**. They will meet year group expectations and intervention will be in place to ensure that children catch-up. Summative assessments are carried out at the beginning and end of the school year. Formative assessment is ongoing and children needing additional support are quickly identified. Progress across classes is monitored by the class teacher and English team. Monitoring will include: writing moderations, lesson drop-ins, pupil voice and learning walks.

Pens and pencils

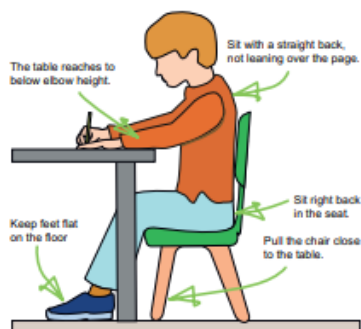
Children will start handwriting using a soft pencil. When fine motor skills have been established and children have been taught how to join all letter families, a handwriting pen can introduced.

Correct Posture and Pencil Grip for Handwriting

Pupils should be taught to sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly.

Right handed children

How to sit correctly to be comfortable for handwriting.

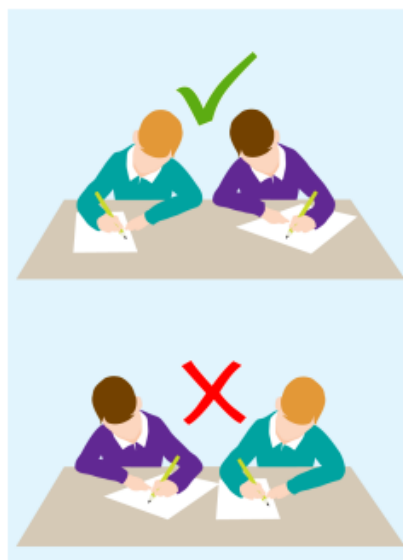


How to hold and position the paper.



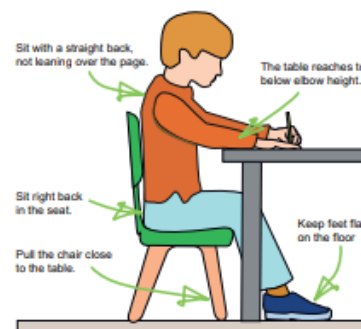
Sitting position

Sit left-handed children to the left of their partner so they have plenty of room to write.



Left handed children

How to sit correctly to be comfortable for handwriting.



How to hold and position the paper.



the Tripod Grip Rhyme:

Right-handed pencil grip



Left-handed pencil grip

