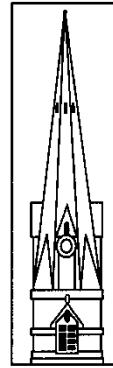


Higher Walton C.E. Primary School



Handwriting Policy

Last reviewed: March 2025

Next review: March 2027

“Life in all its fullness” (John 10 v 10).

Our handwriting policy is based upon our **school core Christian values of friendship and forgiveness, courage and creativity, respect and responsibility, trust and tenacity** along with wider Christian values of love, peace, reconciliation and justice.

MISSION STATEMENT

Higher Walton CE Primary School aims to celebrate everyone's uniqueness, enabling our children to flourish and reach their true potential. We do this in a caring, supportive and stimulating environment, so that everyone has the very best opportunity to manifest, “Life in all its fullness” (John 10 v 10).

VISION

Our school vision is “Life in all its fullness” (John 10 v 10). Within this school each child is considered as a unique child of God. All members of our school family are welcomed into a safe and secure Christian environment where they are valued, included and accepted. Our Christian ethos promotes self-worth, self-respect and trust, so that everyone develops the confidence to ask questions, talk through problems and explore values and beliefs leading to responsible behaviour and citizenship.

Handwriting Policy

Introduction

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. 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. Handwriting skills are taught regularly and systematically throughout the school.

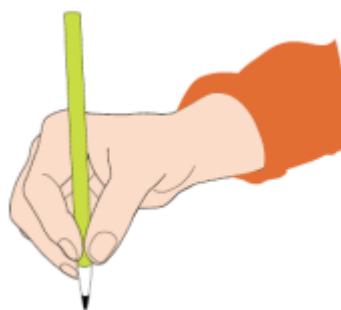
At Higher Walton CE Primary School our aims in teaching handwriting are:

- 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 from the autumn term of Year 1 to the end of Year 6 children are using a cursive writing style.
- 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.

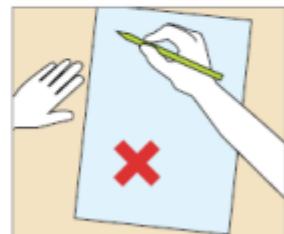
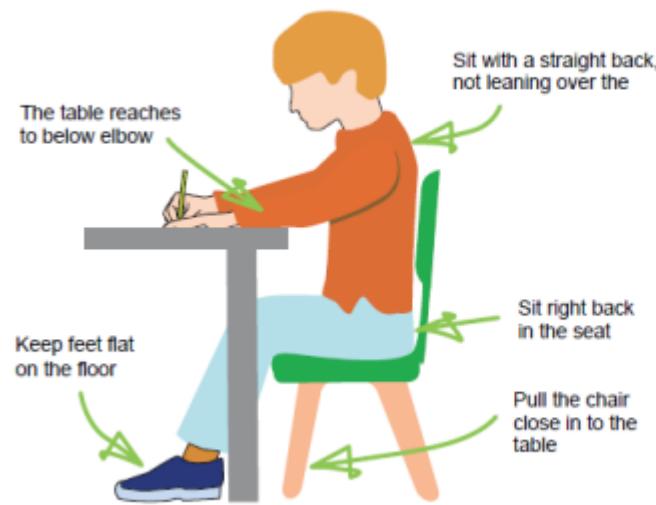
Children will be taught to:

- Hold a pencil correctly.
- 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:

SITTING POSITION



Paper position for right-handed children

(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)

- Write from left to right and from top to bottom of the page.
- Start and finish letters correctly in a cursive style (from the Autumn Term of year 1 onwards).
- Form regularly sized and shaped letters.
- Use regular spacing between letters and words.
- Take a pride in their written work and the overall presentation.

The cursive script agreed at Higher Walton CE Primary School is shown below:

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

EYFS

In EYFS children will be encouraged to develop gross motor control through the use of 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 and movement and the letter formation will follow that of the phonics scheme, Bug Club Phonics.

Letter formation is taught alongside phonic development. 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.

EYFS children will use lined paper to support the focus of correct letter formation, size and positioning.

Key Stage 1

In Year 1, during the Autumn Term cursive handwriting will be introduced starting with beginning each letter from the line and going up individually before then moving on to joining them together to form words. Handwriting can also be linked to phonic development with the introduction of new sounds written in a cursive style during Bug Club Phonics lessons. Our aim is that by the end of year one children will be forming all letters correctly.

In Year 2, adults will model cursive writing from the beginning of the year. The children will be encouraged to continue the development of basic joins which they should transfer into all their independent writing. They will also continue to link their handwriting to their phonic development as they learn to write new sounds using a cursive writing style.

Key Stage 2

In Year 3, children will continue to develop their use of cursive handwriting building upon the skills they have developed in Key stage 1.

In Years 4,5 and 6, children will be expected to use cursive handwriting in all areas of the curriculum. Those children whose writing is neat and legible may be encouraged to use handwriting pens.

If any child is not on track to reach these expectations, they will receive additional support through small group intervention groups.

Adjustments

SEND pupils will be fully included in the teaching of handwriting but additional practice, gross or fine motor skills intervention will also be provided where appropriate to support their additional needs.

Teachers should also be aware of the specific needs of left-handed pupils and make appropriate provision. Where possible handwriting should be modelled specifically for left handed pupils and the correct grip and posture should be ensured.

Handwriting Equipment

Children will use line sizes appropriate to their stage in writing. During handwriting sessions specific handwriting paper with 3 lines may be used. Children will also practise using the use the same sized lines as their other curricula books so that

children skills are transferable and that the same expectation of handwriting is set across all writing.

Children should use a sharp HB pencil for all handwriting initially. When in KS2 teachers assess that children are competent at joined handwriting they should be allowed to use a blue handwriting pen (No biro type pens will be used).

In some cases, depending on the specific needs of individual, children may use pencil grips or pens with a specific grip.

Assessment

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.

Marking and Feedback

We emphasise constructive feedback. In our feedback policy we have clear systems for feedback of children's work which is adhered to throughout our handwriting sessions. In handwriting sessions and during independent work it is important that incorrect pencil grip and incorrect letter formation are identified and corrected at the point it occurs.

Outcomes

Handwriting is a skill which affects written communication across the curriculum and our aim is that children are able to 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.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner if national guidelines indicate that a change of policy is necessary.