

The Teaching of Handwriting at Millfields Community

At Millfields Community School, our aim is that pupils will be supported to develop a handwriting style which is clear, joined and fluid. Inevitably some will be neater than others, but each child can acquire a consistent and fluent style. Although there are many opportunities to practice handwriting across the curriculum, we provide regular lessons for teaching and revising these skills. The frequency and length of these lessons will vary according to the age and competence of the children. Formal handwriting skills will be taught regularly and systematically through the use of the PENPALS Handwriting scheme (Cambridge University Press).

Five stages are identified and these form the basic organisation of the scheme:

Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5
Readiness for writing: gross and fine motor skills leading to letter formation (Foundation)	Beginning to join (Lower KS1)	. Securing joins (Upper KS1/Lower KS2)	Practising speed and fluency (Lower KS2)	Presentation skills (Upper KS2)

Opportunities for linking handwriting with early phonics and spelling work are fully exploited through the PENPALS scheme. It is important that children hold their pencil correctly and ensure their posture is correct.

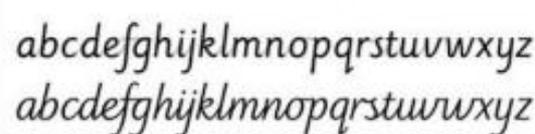
Pencil Grip

- Pencil held between finger and thumb
- Middle finger provides extra support Posture
- Feet flat on the floor
- Head up, not resting on the desk or hand
- Paper at the correct angle
- Spare hand steadies the paper

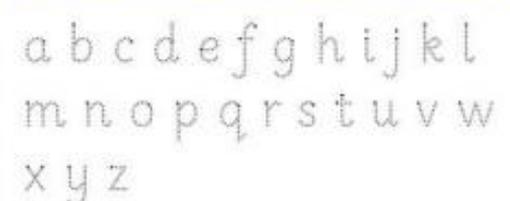
Progression:

RECEPTION	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5/6
We begin at school with letters being written separately (not joined up yet). When the child's letter formation is accurate we then introduce joins.	During this school year children will begin to join some pairs of letters within a word. They will be introduced to two types of joins: Diagonal joins & Horizontal joins	The main aim this year is for the children to become fluent and develop an automatic style. New joining letters this year are: Joins from 'q', joins to and from 'r', joins to and from 's', joins from 'f	Children will refine their handwriting and make sure that the size and proportions of all letters and the spaces between letters and words are consistent. New joins introduced are: Joins from 'p' and 'b' to a short letter, an ascender and an anti-clockwise letter	In Year 4 children will begin to slope their handwriting and will keep ascenders and descenders parallel. Children will begin to practise writing at increased speed and will be introduced to the print alphabet for captions, headings, labels and posters.	By this stage children should be secure at joining and able to use joined up writing for most of their work. Children will be experimenting with slopes and will have a more mature and comfortable style.

Penpals: Example Letter formation with joins



Penpals: Example Letter formation before joining.
Bold dot indicates the starting point for forming each letter.





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