



## Fairfield Primary School Handwriting Policy

Created/Revised:	Date September 2026
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Review Details:	
Review Date:	
Next Review:	
Approved by Governing Body:	

## **Handwriting Policy**

*Note: Attach printouts of alphabet sheets in your chosen fonts to show the letter shapes you have chosen for f, k, w, x and z. Letter-join Print Plus (if using a printed font) and your chosen cursive font*

Research shows that fluent transcription reduces cognitive load, enabling pupils to focus on composition, vocabulary, sentence construction and authorial choices.

We are very proud of our pupils' handwriting and take particular care with our handwriting style.

In line with the Writing Framework 2025, handwriting is taught explicitly and regularly across the school beginning in Nursery with the teaching of gross and fine motor skills and mark making, developing into fluent, legible, cursive handwriting in Year 6.

We use Letter-join's whole school handwriting scheme as the basis of our handwriting policy, which enables us to meet National Curriculum requirements through a structured teaching programme.

### **Objective**

Handwriting is a core skill which influences the quality of work throughout the curriculum. By the end of Key Stage 2 pupils should have the ability to produce fluent, legible and speedy joined handwriting, and to understand that different styles of handwriting are used for different purposes.

Our intention is to make handwriting an automatic process that does not interfere with creative and mental thinking.

### **Aims**

- Develop neat, legible and speedy handwriting where letters and words are automatically produced in independent writing.
- Establish and maintain high expectations for the presentation of written work.
- Understand, by the end of Year 6, the importance of neat presentation and the need for different handwriting styles (joined, printed or capital letters) to help communicate meaning clearly.



### **Expectations**

All teaching staff are encouraged to model the style of handwriting chosen for each year group in our school in all their handwriting, whether on whiteboards, displays or in pupils' books.

## Consistency throughout the school

Pupils should experience coherence and continuity in the teaching and learning of handwriting across all school years and be encouraged to take pride in their work. We want to help pupils enjoy learning and developing their handwriting, so they feel a sense of achievement and pride.

### Handwriting frequency

Handwriting is a cross-curricular task and will be taken into consideration during all lessons. Formal teaching of handwriting will be carried out regularly and systematically to ensure key stage targets are met throughout learning, as emphasised in the 2025 Writing Framework.

### Pens and pencils

Pupils will first learn to write with chunky crayons, chalk or soft pencils while developing a proper grip before exploring with large scale drawing and writing to build fine motor skills, then moving to smaller, more precise writing tools.

When their fine motor skills are established, pupils may progress to using a pencil to a handwriting pen or for more competent pupils, a Biro ballpoint pen.







### Inclusion

For children who experience handwriting difficulties due to fine motor development, including those who are left-handed and/or with special educational needs, appropriate additional support will be put in place. Letter-join's Lesson Planners include differentiation activities for extra practice/challenge.



Intervention may include a variety of activities including: use of dough, threading and pinching activities as well as specific recommendations and adaptations for pupils.

Throughout school, each class completes a pencil grip assessment tracker regularly.

Class:							Left Handed/Right Handed Adaptations needed Intervention
	Palmer Supinate	Digital Pronate	Four Finger	Static Tripod	Static Quadropod	Dynamic Tripod	

### Assessment and Monitoring

A summative assessment for handwriting is captured termly (in line with the school's assessment and monitoring timetable). Assessments are made through the school's assessment tracker system, Sonar.

Assessment is undertaken through:

- handwriting books
- independent writing
- curriculum books
- observations

Pupils falling behind receive targeted intervention.

Success criteria for each individual lesson is clearly outlined on each lesson plan.

Handwriting lessons and delivery are monitored throughout the academic year by the English Subject team and Senior Leaders.

### **Key Stage Teaching**

Handwriting in Early Years starts with children developing:

- core strength
- shoulder stability
- bilateral coordination
- fine motor control
- physical development as a foundation for writing

Opportunities for developing these skills will be found in areas of provision within the classroom as well as explicit gross and fine motor activities.

### **Nursery**

- Nursery teach a variety of fine and gross motor skills within their provision.
- a 'mark of the week' is explicitly taught and practiced throughout the week.

### **Reception**

We teach short, daily handwriting lessons, which may include:

- warm-up activities to get ready for handwriting
- correct sitting position and pencil grip for writing
- the introduction of letter shapes and formation

Handwriting books to encourage letter spacing, sitting letters on a line and using a margin.

Module 1 Print teaches handwriting using a printed font style.

This module is divided into two sections covering:

- pre-writing patterns
- letter formation begins once children have been taught the graphemes in Little Wandle phonics

At the end of the Reception year, children should be able to recognise and form all lowercase letters of the alphabet in a printed style.

### **Key Stage 1: Years 1 and 2**

Formal handwriting lessons will continue five times a week in Year 1 .

Formal handwriting lessons will continue three times a week in Year 2, with 2 additional shorter handwriting sessions to apply taught skills:

- continuing with gross and fine motor skills activities
- practise to strengthening handwriting learning
- learning where and when to use capitals and printed letters, reinforced by practice
- practising handwriting with spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG).

Handwriting books to encourage letter spacing, sitting letters on a line and using a margin.

### **Year 1**

Module 2 Print to Cursive teaches how to correctly use and write capital letters, printed letters, numbers, punctuation, maths symbols and other symbols. Children are then introduced to pre-writing patterns and cursive letters in preparation for Module 3 when they are required to start joining their handwriting.

This module is divided into three sections covering:

- warm-up activities, letter families and capital letters
- the uses of printed letters
- numbers and symbols
- the introduction of pre-cursive patterns and cursive letters.

On completion of this module, children should be confident in writing all capital and printed letters, numbers and symbols and have some familiarity with the orientation of cursive letters.

## **Year 2**

Module 3 Starting Cursive introduces children to cursive letters and how to join them which is reinforced with regular practice in letter formation and joining.

The sections in this module cover:

- cursive letters and words
- revisiting letter families
- high frequency words
- joining techniques
- sequencing sentences
- dictation exercises
- times table facts
- spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) practice.

With regular handwriting practice throughout this module, children should now be developing fluency and speed in their writing.

## **Lower Key Stage 2**

Formal handwriting lessons will continue twice a week in Lower Key Stage 2, with 3 additional shorter handwriting sessions to apply taught skills.

Lined exercise books to encourage letter spacing, sitting letters on a line and using a margin. All children to use a blue ball point pen for handwriting lessons.

## **Year 3**

Module 4 teaches pupils to use a joined style throughout their independent writing in all subjects, helping them to refine their handwriting based on the requirements of each lesson. This module covers topics such as dictation, double letters, number vocabulary, palindromes, tongue twisters, modern foreign languages (French), onomatopoeia, simile and statutory spellings.

Through a variety of resources which link handwriting to other areas of the curriculum, on completion of this module, the legibility, consistency and quality of handwriting should be improving.

## **Year 4**

Module 5 focuses on handwriting practice which supports other subjects in the curriculum and, at the same time, builds on fluency and consistency. This module aims to promote meaningful links with other subjects such as English, maths, science, geography and French. Making such links enables children to apply the skills they are learning in context and, also provides depth to the curriculum.

Learners will continue to build on producing fluent, consistent and legible handwriting through the regular practice offered in this module's lessons.

On concluding this module, children will have practised applying size-appropriate handwriting to all areas of the curriculum whilst maintaining fluency and legibility.

### **Years 5 and 6**

More advanced handwriting techniques will be taught during two weekly lessons, with 3 additional shorter handwriting sessions to apply taught skills:

- reinforcing joined handwriting across the curriculum
- form-filling/labelling using printed and capital letters
- dictation exercises promoting quick note-taking and speedy handwriting writing skills
- SATs spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) practice.

Lined exercise books to encourage letter spacing, sitting letters on a line and using a margin. All children to use a blue ball point pen for all subjects.

### **Year 5**

Module 6 continues to build on combining fluent handwriting with other subjects across the curriculum.

In this module, learners will have plenty of opportunity to develop the skills and stamina needed to write at length, with accurate spelling and punctuation. With Letter-join's wide range of resources they will be able to work towards producing consistently neat and well-presented handwriting in all curriculum subjects.

On completing this module, children should be producing joined writing automatically, enabling them to focus on the content of their work rather than the process of writing.

### **Year 6**

Formal handwriting techniques will be taught during two weekly lessons, with 3 additional shorter handwriting sessions to apply taught skills

**Module 7** presents learners with a range of tasks where they need to decide on an appropriate style of handwriting. Promoting speedy, fluent writing continues to be a strong feature. Challenging dictation exercises help refine pupils' revising and checking skills as well as boosting their handwriting speed, stamina and fluency. A range of curriculum-based worksheets offer opportunities to practise writing at length.

Module 7 also contains a series of worksheets to support SATs SPaG revision. They are designed to support pupils in meeting expected standards for spelling, punctuation and grammar, with lots of SPaG preparation and plenty of handwriting practice.

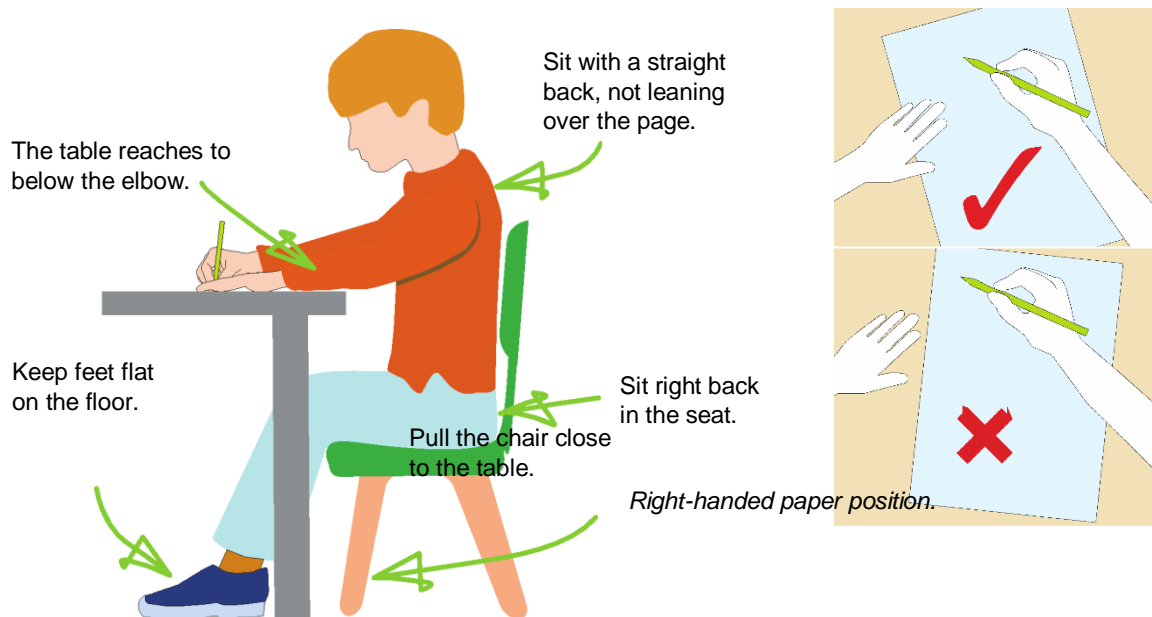
By the end of this module, children should be able to adapt their handwriting for a range of tasks and purposes and to create different effects and styles. They should be clear about

what standard of handwriting is appropriate for a particular task, for example, quick notes, a final handwritten version, capital letters or an unjoined style.

### Correct posture, pencil grip and paper position for handwriting

Pupils are taught to sit correctly at a table and hold a pencil comfortably and correctly.

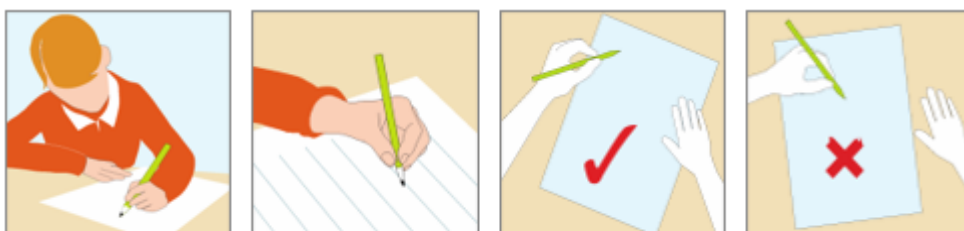
#### Sitting position



#### Left-handed writer

Left-handed children may find it difficult to follow the movements of right-handed teachers as they model letter formation (and vice versa). Teachers will demonstrate to left-handers on an individual or group basis.

- Left-handed pupils should sit to the left of a right-handed child so that they are not competing for space.
- Pupils should position the paper/book to their left side and slanted, as shown.
- Pencils should not be held too close to the point as this can interrupt pupils' line of vision.
- Extra practice with left-to-right exercises may be necessary before pupils write left-to-right automatically.



Left-handed paper position.

## The Tripod Pencil Grip

Both right and left-handed children should use the tripod grip which enables the pen/pencil to be held securely whilst allowing controlled movements of the pen/pencil nib.

We use the Tripod Grip rhyme:

### Right-handed pencil grip



Point away the pencil,



Pinch it near the tip,



Lift it off the table,

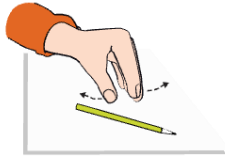


Spin it round...



and grip.

### Left-handed pencil grip



Point away the pencil,



Pinch it near the tip,



Lift it off the table,



Spin it round...



and grip.