



West Pennard C of E Primary School

Handwriting Progression (EYFS – Year 6)
(2021-2022)

Our school vision...

'Since God so loved us, so we must love one another'

(1 John 4 v11)

Valuing our Christian foundation, we care for each other and our world.

We develop resilience, confidence, creativity and independence through our innovative and diverse curriculum; inspiring and motivating everyone to thrive.

Our motto, 'To Try is to Triumph' and growing Christian Values, are central to all that we do.

Principles

- Handwriting is taught explicitly, in short, frequent sessions. It is modelled by the teacher then supervised;
- Where possible, handwriting will be linked to phonic and spelling patterns. This will help with handwriting and with the 'muscle memory' of spellings;
- When ready, pupils will begin practising on the lines they are going to use in their writing books;
- Teachers model good handwriting at all times, e.g. when writing on the whiteboard and when marking books.

Handwriting in the Foundation Stage

Good handwriting relies on gross and fine motor control. Children in the Foundation Stage learn handwriting through movement with the actual writing of letters as the ultimate aim. Children will only use printed script in Early Years.

Children will:

- Engage in activities requiring to develop their gross and fine motor skills;
- Use one-handed tools and equipment;
- Draw lines and circles using gross motor movement;
- Manipulate objects with increasing control;
- Begin to use anticlockwise movement and retrace vertical lines;
- Begin to form recognisable letters;
- Use a pencil and hold it with a developing tripod grip to form recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed.

Throughout the Foundation Stage, children will be given opportunities to develop:

- Physical control through large-scale movement;
- Manipulative skills such as using tools, cooking utensils and scissors;
- Fine motor control and hand-eye coordination through activities such as threading.

Progression

Reception

- Pre-writing stage- patterning;
- Individual letter formation;
- Word formation based on letter groups.

The National Curriculum English Programmes of Study provide guidance on teaching handwriting:

Year 1 pupils will be taught to:

- Sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly;
- Begin to form lower-case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place;
- Form capital letters;
- Form digits 0-9;
- Understand which letters belong to which handwriting 'families' (i.e. letters that are formed in similar ways) and to practise these;
- Make links with phonics and spelling.

Children will be taught to print letter starting and finishing in the correct direction. Children will not be taught to use cursive script or joined handwriting.

Year 2 pupils will be taught to:

- Form lower-case letters of the correct size relative to one another;
- Start using some of the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left not joined;
- Write capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower case letters;
- Use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters.

Children will be introduced to cursive script. Children will not be taught to join their handwriting.

Year 3-4 pupils will be taught to:

- Use the diagonal and horizontal strokes that are needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left not joined and increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting, e.g. by ensuring that the down strokes of letters are parallel and equidistant and that lines of writing are spaced sufficiently so that the ascenders and descenders of letters do not touch.

Children will be introduced to joining **once** they have mastered the cursive script style.

Year 5-6 pupils will be taught to:

Write legibly, fluently, with increasing speed and personal style by:

- Choosing which shape of a letter to use when given choices and deciding, as part of their personal style, whether or not to join specific letters;

- Choosing the writing implement that is best suited for a task.

For those children who find the process of handwriting demanding (for a variety of reasons) the use of a Chromebooks for typing may be used - particularly for extended pieces of writing. Children may also not be fully introduced to joining or cursive script.