

WHITEHILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL

"...putting children first..."



HANDWRITING POLICY

(Kinetic Letters)

Date reviewed: January 2021

Reviewed by: Natalie James

Ratified by governors: January 2021

Introduction

This policy sets out Whitehill's Primary School's approach to handwriting and presentation. It sits within the context of the school's vision and core values of respect, responsibility and hard work and other policies of the school; it applies to the whole school community – governors, staff, pupils and parents/guardians/carers.

Whitehills follows the national framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 and the handwriting requirements of that framework (see appendix 3) apply in full to the school.

Handwriting is a physical activity that involves movement and recognition skills that need to be learnt and become part of the automatic cognitive skill set of the pupil. To achieve this, Whitehills Primary School has chosen the Kinetic Letters handwriting programme.

Rationale

Handwriting is of fundamental importance to educating our pupils because pupils who do not learn to read and write fluently and confidently are, in every sense, disenfranchised. The mastery of handwriting is therefore one of the key priorities of the school.

Aims and Objectives

The outcomes that we strive to ensure all our pupils achieve are:

- Having fluent, legible and speedy handwriting that can be performed automatically, so that the attention of the brain is on the content of the writing.
- Having the stamina and skills to write at length, with accurate spelling and punctuation.
- Having competence in transcription (spelling and handwriting) and composition.
- Writing clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences.
- Having a comfortable and efficient pencil hold and working position.

About Kinetic Letters

The programme has four threads.

- Making bodies stronger.
- Holding the pencil (for speed, comfort and legibility)
- Learning the letters
- Flow and fluency

The key principles of the programme are:

- Building physical strength underpins handwriting and concentration. This knowledge informs the working positions that children use for writing and the strengthening targets they work on.
- Pupils are not expected to mark make before they are developmentally ready for it.
- The different components of writing are mastered individually before being used in combination.
- Letters are learnt as movements, not as visual shapes, and movement remains central to developing automaticity in letter formation, flow and fluency.
- Posture is important in developing the correct position for handwriting and so children are taught how to organize their working position and paper position to enable comfortable and fluent writing from the start.
- Correct pencil hold is taught from the start (ie as soon as a tri-pod grip is developmentally appropriate).

Implementation

All teachers and TAs have been trained in Kinetic Letters. New members of staff will have the training as part of their induction and CPD.

Expectations and Key Skills taught:

Early Years Foundation Stage and KS1

The Kinetic Letters programme is commenced in Early years Foundation Stage and is used throughout the school. By the end of KS1, each pupil should be working at the national standard and some should be working at a greater depth (See appendix 2). Children will be using some of the strokes needed to join letters.

KS2

By the end of KS2, most pupils should be working at the expected standard. Pupils should be clear about what standard of handwriting is appropriate for a particular task (e.g. quick notes or a final handwritten version).

Handwriting practice takes place in sessions that are outside Literacy lessons, since handwriting underpins the majority of curriculum areas and is integral to self-esteem.

When will it be taught?

Pupils in Reception and KS1 will spend 15 minutes every day, working on activities that are part of the Kinetic Letters Programme. Handwriting is taught in discrete sessions, separate from phonics. Handwriting practice takes place on the either the 5 lined white boards which have been made by the Kinetic Letters coordinator or modelled on flip charts with have the Kinetic Letters lines. The majority of the time, sessions are taught to the whole class with differentiated targets; reinforcement may take place in small groups and/or individually.

Pupils in KS2 will spend 20 minutes a day, three times a week, working on activities that are part of the Kinetic Letters Programme. They will be focusing on the fundamental skills of handwriting then moving onto the joining. Some children may be identified for extra support in order for them to meet expected by Year 6.

Assessment

The assessment framework in the national curriculum will apply to each pupil when their progress is being assessed at the end of KS1 and KS2 (see appendix 2). Prior to these two measurement points, teachers will use the Kinetic Letters assessment guides on a daily basis. Marking of work by teachers will be positive and self-correction by pupils will be encouraged.

Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND)

Whitehills Primary School SEND policy applies. However, the Kinetic Letters programme is applicable to pupils with dyslexic and dyspraxia.

Home Involvement

It is important that parents/guardians/carers are involved in supporting the learning of handwriting. Parents will be given details of the handwriting programme when their child starts Whitehills. A parents' workshop is offered to the new intake.

Presentation

All Staff will demonstrate good practice by ensuring that at all times written work is completed in Kinetic Letters. Additionally, children will work in exercise books which have the Kinetic Letters guide lines, specific to Early Years, Key Stage one and key Stage 2.

Policy adoption

Policy Amended on 19th January 2021 by Natalie James

Appendix 1

KL font

Lower case:

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxy

Upper case:

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNPOQRSTUVWXYZ

Numbers:

1234567890

Letter groups (in teaching order)

Jumper Family: hbnrmp

Abracadabra Family: coadgqs

Special Squirter e

Window Cleaner Family: Itiu

Fisher Family: gjyf

Slider Family: vwz

Pushing numbers: 2357

Pulling numbers: 689014

Appendix 2

Teacher assessment framework for a pupil's performance - end of Key Stage 1 and 2 – handwriting

This statutory interim framework is to be used only to make a teacher assessment judgement on an individual pupil at the end of the Key Stage following the completion of KS1/KS2 curriculum.

It is not intended to track progress throughout the Key Stage.

	Key Stage 1			Key Stage 2		
	Working towards	Working at	Greater depth	Working towards	Working at	Greater depth
Forming lower case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place	All	All	All	All	All	All
Forming lower case letters and digits of the correct size in relative to one another.	Some	All	All	All	All	All
Using spacing between words	Some	All	All	All	All	All
Using spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters.		All	All	All	All	All
Use of question marks and exclamation marks		Most	All	All	All	All
Using the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed by joining letters.			Most			All
Producing legible joined handwriting.			Most			All
Maintaining legibility, fluency and speed in handwriting through choosing whether or not to join specific letters.				Most	All	All

Key: A child demonstrates attainment of a standard some or most or all of the time by the end of the key stage.

Appendix 3

Handwriting requirements – national framework

This document sets out National Curriculum 2015 handwriting requirements for Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. The Framework document makes the following statements about the outcomes that must be achieved by teachers:

- Ensuring all pupils write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences
- It is essential that teaching develops pupils' competence in transcription (spelling and handwriting) and composition. ("Writing" p16)
- Pupils who do not learn to read and write fluently and confidently are, in every sense, disenfranchised. ("Purpose of Study" p14)
- Pupils should develop the stamina and skills to write at length, with accurate spelling and punctuation. ("6.3 Language and literacy - Reading and Writing" p11)
- Writing also depends on fluent, legible and, eventually, speedy handwriting. ("Programmes of study and attainment targets - Aims of English" p16)

References

Statutory framework for the early years' foundation stage - effective September 2014
 Early Years Foundation Stage Handbook 2015 – Standards & Testing Agency 2014
 EYFS profile exemplification – Physical development – ELG 04 – S&TA 2014
 Early Years Foundation Stage – exceeding description
 National Curriculum – Framework documents 2014 and Primary Curriculum 2015

Statutory requirements	Non-statutory requirements
Early Years Foundation Stage	
Literacy development involves encouraging children to begin to read and write. Moving and handling: Children show good control and co-ordination in large and small movements. They move confidently in a range of ways, safely negotiating space. They handle equipment and tools effectively, including pencils for writing. Writing: Children write simple sentences.	Expected descriptors: Shows preference for a dominant hand. Use a pencil effectively to form recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed. Exceeding descriptors: They hold paper in position and use their preferred hand for writing, using a correct pencil grip. They are beginning to write on lines and control letter size.
Key stage 1 Year 1	
Pupils' writing during Year 1 will generally develop at a slower pace than their reading. This is because they need to encode the sounds they hear in words (spelling skills), develop the physical skill needed for handwriting, and learn how to organise their ideas in writing.	
Pupils should be taught to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; • write from memory simple sentences dictated by the teacher 	Handwriting requires frequent and discrete, direct teaching. Pupils should be able to form letters correctly and confidently. The size of the writing implement (pencil, pen) should not be too large for a young pupil's hand. Whatever is being used should allow the pupil to hold it easily and correctly so that bad habits are avoided. Left-handed pupils should receive specific teaching to meet their needs

Year 2	
In writing, pupils at the beginning of year 2 should be able to compose individual sentences orally and then write them down, and to form individual letters correctly, so establishing good handwriting habits from the beginning.	
<p>Pupils should be taught to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 un-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. 	Pupils should revise and practise correct letter formation frequently. They should be taught to write with a joined style as soon as they can form letters securely with the correct orientation.
Lower key stage 2 Years 3-4	
Joined handwriting should be the norm; pupils should be able to use it fast enough to keep pace with what they want to say.	
<p>Pupils should be taught to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use the diagonal and horizontal strokes that are needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left un-joined; • increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting, e.g. by ensuring that the down-strokes of letters are parallel and equidistant; that lines of writing are spaced sufficiently so that the ascenders and descenders of letters do not touch. 	<p>Pupils should be able to write down their ideas with a reasonable degree of accuracy and with good sentence punctuation.</p> <p>Pupils should be using joined handwriting throughout their independent writing. Handwriting should continue to be taught, with the aim of increasing the fluency with which pupils are able to write down what they want to say. This, in turn, will support their composition and spelling.</p>
Upper key stage 2 Years 5-6	
Children should be able to write down their ideas quickly. By the end of Year 6, pupils' writing should be sufficiently fluent and effortless to manage the general demands of the curriculum in Year 7.	
<p>Pupils should be taught to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • write legibly, fluently and with increasing speed by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ choosing which shape of a letter to use when given choices and deciding whether or not to join specific letters, ◦ choosing the writing implement that is best suited for a task. 	Pupils should continue to practise handwriting and be encouraged to increase the speed of it, so that problems with forming letters do not get in the way of their writing down what they want to say. They should be clear about what standard of handwriting is appropriate for a particular task (e.g. quick notes or a final handwritten version). They should also be taught to use an un-joined style (e.g. for labelling a diagram or data, writing an email address, or for algebra) and capital letters (e.g. for filling in a form).