

Why we use the Spectrum Handwriting Scheme at Marlborough Primary School

Each lowercase letter begins from the main writing line

Each lowercase letter has a lead-in and lead-out stroke which helps avoid confusion in young children about whether to begin a letter at the top or the bottom. This causes less letter reversals when writing.

It has also proved to be beneficial for children with poor hand control and for dyslexic children because the continuous motor movement means the child does not have to think about the order of the letters.

When writing in the joined script, the pencil is on the paper for the whole word, giving a very fluent style which is attractive to the eye.

The fluency established by the early use of joined up letters helps the child to express ideas in written form more readily.

Students should eventually develop the ability to produce letters without thinking. The automatic style releases the brain to concentrate on other ideas i.e. spelling, grammar, syntax, style and content.

The motor memory in the child's hands and fingers help him/her to spell as each word is made up of one movement and there is an improvement in spelling.

It is proven to be beneficial to children with dyslexia as the continuous motor movement means the child does not have to think about the order of the letters

Summary

In Year 1 the students will be introduced to and use the pre-cursive spectrum script exclusively. By the beginning of Year 2 most students will have mastered the individual pre-cursive script and will be introduced to the joined script, with most of the students writing in a legible joined script by the end of the year.

Pupils in KS2 will improve consistency, speed of writing and develop their own style. By the end of Year 6, children should have developed a neat, flowing, confident style.