



## St. Edmund's and St. Benet's Handwriting Policy

2018



### Aims :

- To have a consistent cursive approach across the whole school to ensure high levels of presentation.
- To adopt a common approach towards handwriting by all adults when writing in children's books, on the whiteboard or on displays / resources.
- Children to achieve a neat, legible style with correctly formed letters in cursive handwriting.
- Children to develop fluency and speed whilst writing, so that eventually the children are able to write the letters with confidence and correct orientation.

### Teaching and Learning:

- As recommended by the British Dyslexia Association, we adopt a continuous cursive style of writing.
- Teachers and Learning Support Assistants model the agreed cursive style when modelling writing both in class, on displays and in feedback in books.
- Our agreed cursive style is as below

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

- The letters will be taught in the following order/groups:

1. i l t   u w e   c o   a d   n m h
2. j y   g q   b p k   v s r   f z x

- a) Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS): Communication, language and literacy
  - Children to be introduced to pre-cursive and cursive script at the earliest stages of writing.
  - Children in the Foundation Stage should be writing in the pre-cursive script to enable an easier transition in Year 1 into the cursive script, depending on their ability. However, the expectation is that by the end of Reception pupils will start to transfer towards a cursive script depending on their skill and ability.
  - Displays in both Nursery and Reception should include models of cursive script.
  - Implements such as chunky triangular pencils, large chinks and chunky pens etc are used by pupils to rehearse skills on paper, chalk boards, pavement etc. ii) Key Stage 1 & Key Stage 2
    - Within KS1, every class will have two 15 minute handwriting sessions per week or as required.
    - Within KS2, every class will have a specific handwriting session for 15 minutes per week or as required.

- In handwriting sessions, spellings, relevant key vocabulary or sentences/paragraphs related to core texts will be modelled by an adult then practised by children.
- Specific handwriting books are used for handwriting specific exercises. Lines should be well spaced to start with – e.g. 10mm apart – gradually reducing to single lines about 5mm apart. In KS1, children will use four-lined handwriting paper.
- Children are given a handwriting book from Year 1 which continues throughout the school.

### **Posture**

- Chairs and desks within classrooms are matched to children’s age and height.
  - Children’s backs should be straight and feet resting on the floor. A right-handed child should have their book slanted to the left. For a left-handed child the book should be slanted to the right.
  - Always make sure that the hand which is not holding the pencil or pen holds the paper.
- Implements
- Children use a standard HB pencil, well sharpened in EYFS, KS1 and LKS2.
  - When a teacher deems a child ready within KS2, they will be provided with a special handwriting pen.
  - A pencil is always used within maths regardless of whether children have a pen licence.

### **Planning**

During handwriting sessions, children will apply taught formations to letters, words or parts of text relevant to their current learning. For example, they may practise the letters from their current phonics focus, the letter strings used in their weekly spellings, key vocabulary related to core texts or topic units or use parts of text from guided reading or literacy texts. There is not the expectation that formal written plans are available on the staff drive. Books will be used as evidence for the progression of handwriting.

### **Resources**

The school uses the system from ‘cursive writing’ website to support the teaching of handwriting. This provides models of forming letters, word samples and a way to producing text using the agreed school cursive system. Each class teacher has access to the website [www.cursivewriting.org](http://www.cursivewriting.org) so they can produce text and worksheets to support teaching and learning. Children can watch the animations then trace the patterns, letters and words on their whiteboards for large scale handwriting practice.

### **Equal opportunities and Special needs**

All children must have the opportunity and the encouragement to reach their full potential regardless of race, creed or sex. Children with Special Educational needs, where necessary, will be provided with specialist equipment such as pencil grips or wider ruled lined paper. Intervention is available for children who experience significant difficulties to practice pre writing skills and fine motor coordination Assessment, Monitoring and Moderation Children in the EYFS are assessed on an ongoing basis through observation, handwriting informs part of this.

Within Key Stage One and Key Stage Two, handwriting is assessed as part of children’s writing assessments on a six weekly basis.