



Barrowford
Primary School
Learn to Love, Love to Learn

Handwriting Policy

Written by: Jen Burton
Headteacher: Rachel Tomlinson

Handwriting Policy

Here at Barrowford School we are very proud of our pupil's handwriting and take particular care in our cursive/joined-up handwriting style. We use Letter-join as the basis of our handwriting policy that covers all the requirements of the 2014 National Curriculum.

Handwriting is a basic skill that influences the quality of work throughout the curriculum. At the end of Key Stage 2 all pupils should have the ability to produce fluent, legible and, eventually, speedy joined-up handwriting, and to understand the different forms of handwriting used for different purposes.

We aim to make handwriting an automatic process that does not interfere with creative and mental thinking.

As a catalyst to speedy handwriting we encourage parents and carers to use the Letter-join resources at home with the log-in details that you have been given.

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School aims

We aim for our pupils to develop a neat, legible, speedy handwriting style using continuous cursive letters that leads to producing letters and words automatically in independent writing.

By the end of Year 6 pupils will understand the importance of neat presentation and the need for different letterforms (cursive, printed or capital letters) to help communicate meaning clearly.



Method

Our teachers are encouraged to use neat, joined-up cursive writing for all handwriting tasks including report writing (when not word-processed), marking and comments.

Consistency throughout the school

Pupils should experience coherence and continuity in the learning and teaching of handwriting across all school years and be encouraged to take pride in the presentation of their work. Our aim is to help pupils enjoy learning and developing their handwriting with a sense of achievement and pride.

Handwriting frequency

Handwriting is a cross-curriculum task and will be taken into consideration during all lessons. Formal teaching of handwriting is to be carried out regularly and systematically to ensure Key Stage targets are met.

FOUNDATION:

For our youngest pupils we teach handwriting on a daily basis. Each session will include the following;

- Movements to enhance gross motor skills such as air-writing, pattern making, dancing.
- Exercises to develop fine motor skills such as making marks on paper, whiteboards, blackboards, sand trays, iPads and tablets.
- Letter learning to familiarise letter shapes, formation and vocabulary.

YEARS 1 TO 3:

Tuition will continue with three to five weekly lessons of around 30 minutes covering:

- Gross and fine motor skills exercises.
- Cursive handwriting reinforcement, learning and practice.
- Numerals, capitals and printed letters: where and when to use, learning and practice.

YEARS 4 TO 6:

More advanced handwriting techniques will be taught during two or three weekly lessons of 30 to 45 minutes teaching:

- Cursive handwriting re-enforcement.
- Form-filling/labelling using printed and capital letters.
- Dictation exercises to teach the need for quick notes and speedy handwriting writing.

Cursive Lower Case Letters

a b c d e

f g h i j k

l m n o p

q r s t u

v w x y z

Capital Letters

A B C D E

F G H I J K

L M N O P

Q R S T U

V W X Y Z

Numbers

0 1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8 9

+ - x ÷ =

() # % &

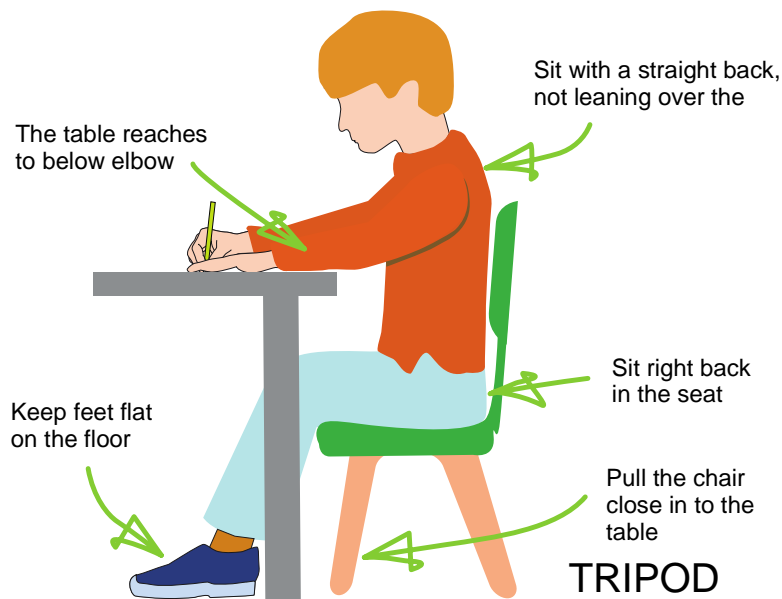
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Correct posture and pencil grip for handwriting

Pupils should be taught to sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly.

SITTING POSITION

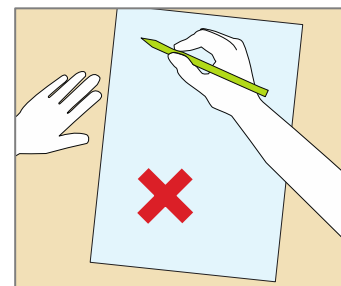
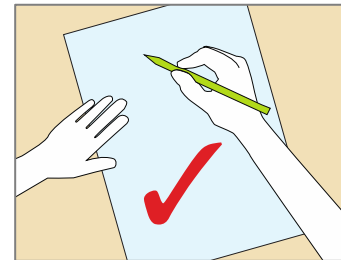


TRIPOD

PENCIL GRIP

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

- 1) Grip the pencil with your index finger and thumb with the nib pointing away.
- 2) With your free hand, spin the pencil from underneath.
- 3) Use your middle finger to support the underside of the pencil.



THE

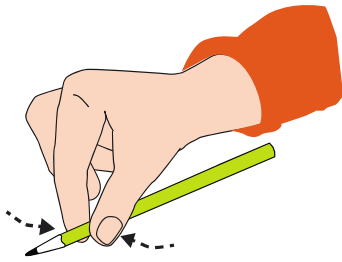
Paper position for right-handed children

Dated: September 2019

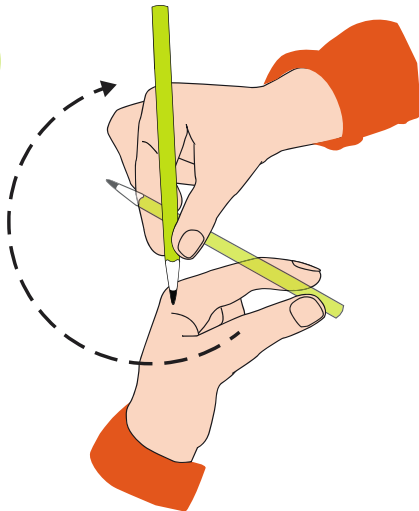
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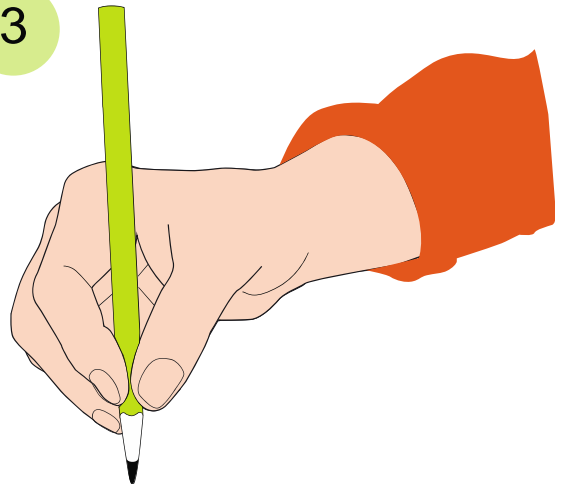
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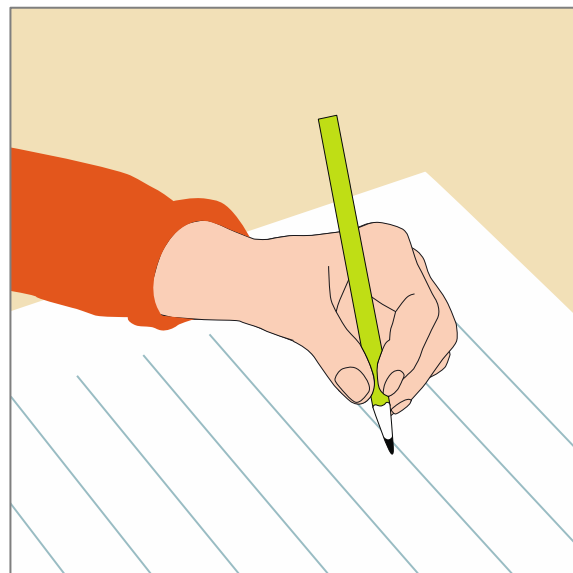
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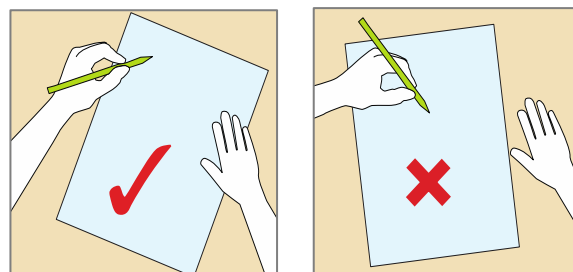
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LEFT-HANDED CHILDREN

Left-handed children may find it difficult to follow right-handed teachers as they demonstrate letter formation (and vice versa). Teachers should 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.



Paper position for left-handed children

PENS AND PENCILS

Children are encouraged to start handwriting using a soft pencil. When fine motor skills have been established a handwriting pen can be used. More competent pupils can use a ballpoint pen.

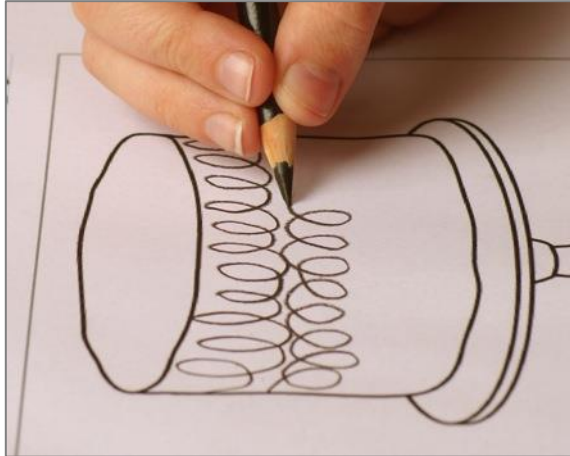
INCLUSION

Children whose handwriting is limited by problems with fine motor skills, including left-handed children, and children with special educational needs, will be given one-to-one tuition to help achieve their optimum handwriting level.

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Key Stage Teaching

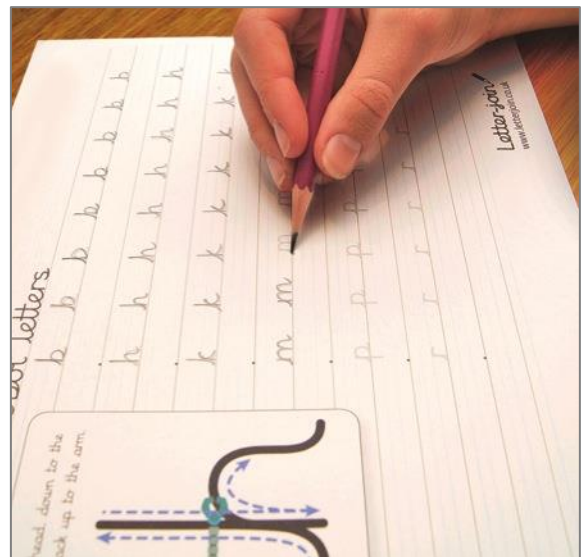
FOUNDATION



- Sit in the correct position and hold a pencil correctly to allow fluid movement of the nib.
- Improve fine and gross motor skills by enjoying drawing pre-cursive patterns in a variety of writing materials such as modelling clay, air writing, sand trays, felt pens, crayons, pencils, IWB, iPads/tablets.
- Understand the language needed to describe pencil movements in preparation for letter formation.

FOUNDATION STAGE

- Hold a pencil in an effective manner for writing and be encouraged to correct any errors in grip or stature.
- Understand that letters are written on a base line and that all cursive letters 'start on the line' and 'end with a hook'.
- Begin to form some recognisable joined-up cursive letters, capital letters and numerals.
- Have an understanding of writing their own name.
- Understanding different shaped letter families.

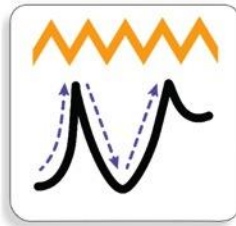
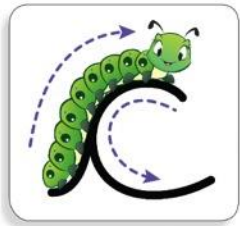
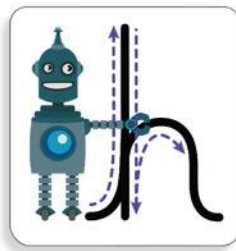
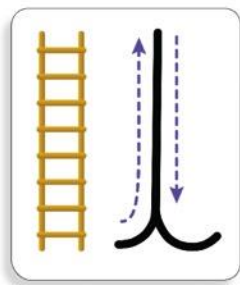


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Key Stage Teaching

KEY STAGE 2

Improve quality, speed and stamina of handwriting.

- **Quality:** Ensure letters are consistently sized with equal word spacing and that ascenders and descenders are parallel and do not touch words on the lines above and below.
- **Speed:** Improve speed of handwriting to allow creative writing to take precedence over the task of handwriting and be able to write legibly using upper and lower case letters with correct joins.
- **Stamina:** Have the strength and mobility to be able to write for longer periods and time without fatigue.

Dictation Exercises

<p>Easy practice A selection of CVC words, a list of numbers and an easy poem.</p> <p>dog hill bus 24 37 92</p> <p>I can eat a bun. Put it in my bum. Open up the top. Sip on my pop.</p>	<p>Harder exercises A list of phrases, easy sums and a three-verse poem.</p> <p>Over the hill. 2 + 1 = 3</p> <p>A six an and That seldom stand still. It made a nice house. I made a hill. Now little and!</p>	<p>More challenging Shopping list, complex numbers and a written passage.</p> <p>4 small radishes 12 medium farm eggs 29-10-2003</p> <p>My birthday on Scotland had at seven I moved south to Lancashire I have lived there since then other than</p>
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- Form numerals that are consistent in size and sit on the base line.
- **Begin** to form printed letters and understand when they are to be used.
- **Neat, joined, cursive letters** for writing purposes.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Parts of a Flower

Put the labels into the correct places:

1. Stigma	3. Ovary	5. Pollen tube	7. Anther	9. Petal
2. Style	4. Ovule	6. Receptacle	8. Filament	10. Sepal

Letter-join
Joined-up handwriting made easy

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