



Round House Primary Academy

Handwriting Guidance

Rationale

Even in this computer literate age, good handwriting remains fundamental to our children's educational achievement. Children should be taught handwriting explicitly and have time to practise so they are able to develop a fluent style which will also reflect their individuality. We want children to take pride in their work and the presentation should reflect the best of their capabilities.

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.

We use the Letter-join cursive handwriting scheme as the basis of our handwriting policy that covers all the requirements of the 2014 National Curriculum.

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 during Exciting Writing weekly sessions to ensure Key Stage targets are met.

FOUNDATION:

- Children practice some fine motor skills every day. Teachers will use a variety of strategies to develop the physical skills needed to develop their handwriting skills through continuous provision of linked activities. These include:
 - 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.

KEY STAGE 1

Correct letter formation and joining of letters will be taught in year one and two with the intention that all children can join at the end of year 2. Handwriting is taught explicitly every week with other opportunities to practice in a variety of ways eg: practicing spelling, early morning work etc.

- 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.

KEY STAGE 2

Lower KS2

Children will be familiar with all the basic joins and begin to develop fluent, even handwriting. An emphasis on consistency of letter size, and parallel ascenders and descenders helps children to present their work well.

Upper KS2

By year 5 most children are writing fluently and are joining their writing, when appropriate, for most of their cross curricular work. The emphasis is now on increased speed and on developing presentation skills.

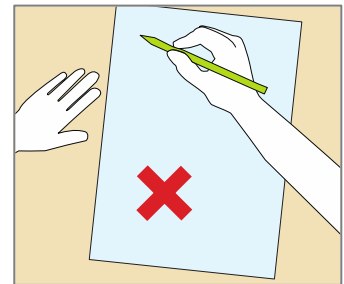
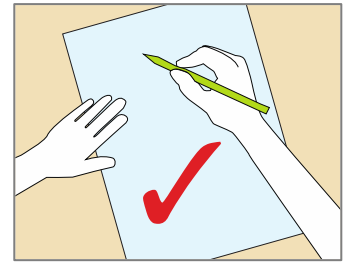
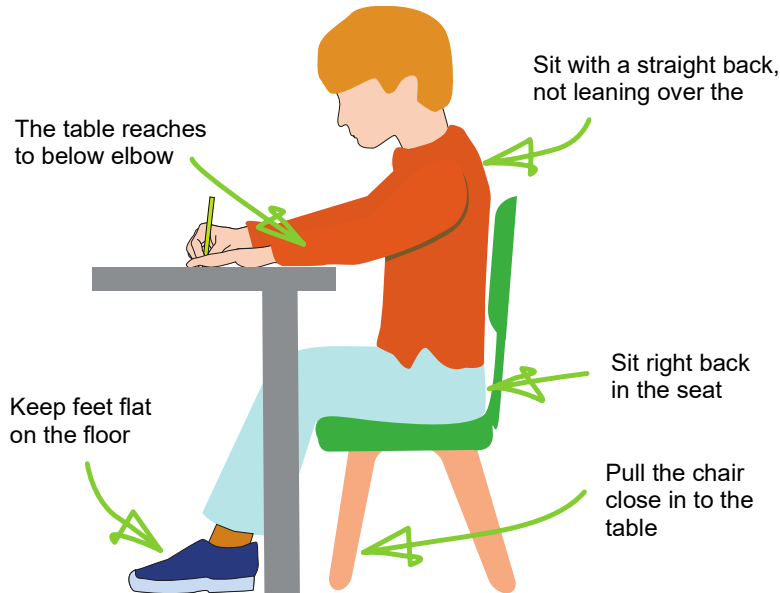
More advanced handwriting techniques will be taught during weekly sessions

- 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.

Correct posture and pencil grip for handwriting

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

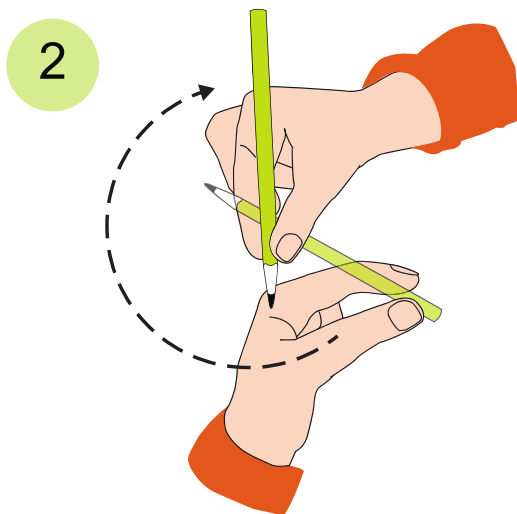
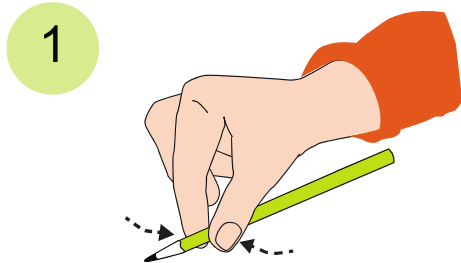
SITTING POSITION



Paper position for right-handed children

THE TRIPOD PENCIL GRIP

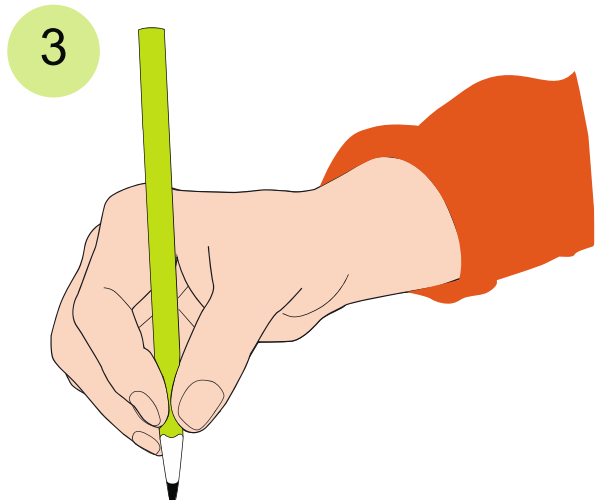
Both right and left handed children should be encouraged to use the tripod grip, which allows the pen/pencil to be held securely whilst allowing controlled movements of the pen/pencil nib.



1) Grip the pencil with your index finger and thumb with the nib pointing away.

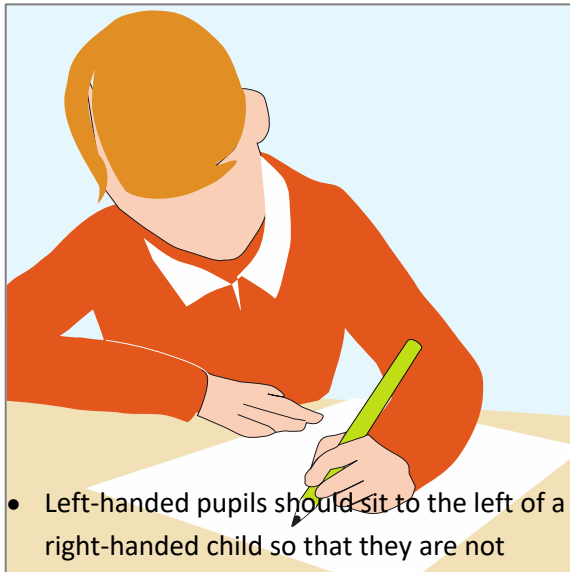
2) With your free hand, spin the pencil from underneath.

3) Use your middle finger to support the underside of the pencil.

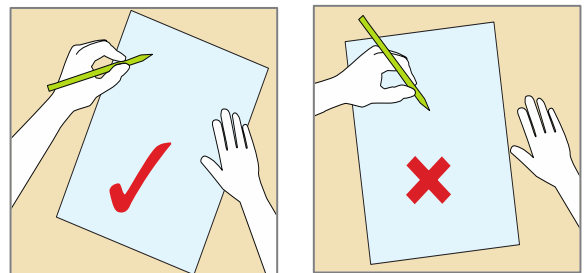
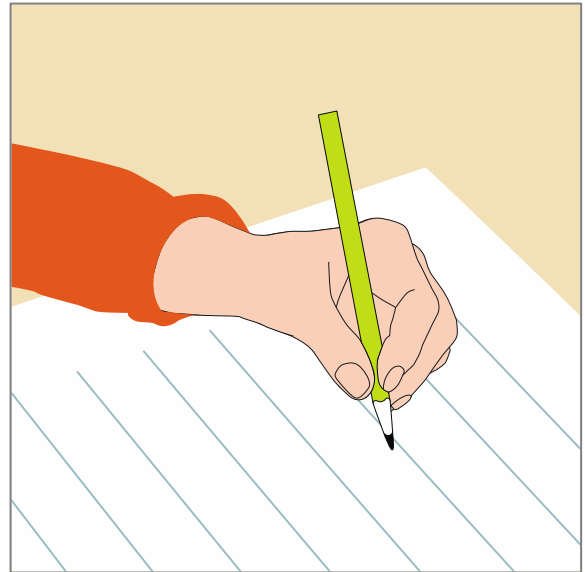


LEFT-HANDED CHILDREN

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

INCLUSION

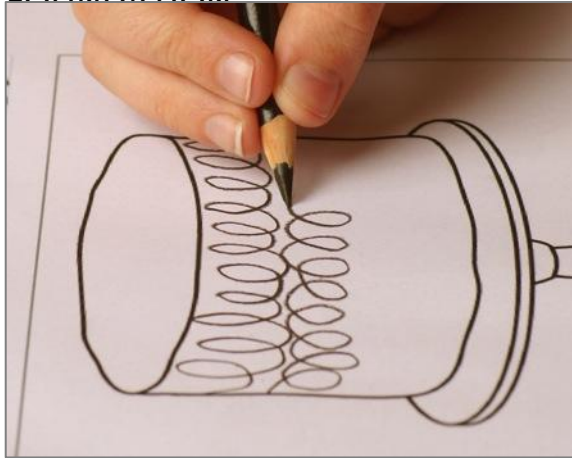
Children whose handwriting is limited by problems with fine motor skills, including left-handed children, and children with special educational needs, will be given one-to-one tuition to help achieve their optimum handwriting level.

PENS AND PENCILS

Children use pencils but from yr 3 onwards when they are able to write fluently and joined in all subjects, they will receive their 'Handwriting Award.' They will begin to use their handwriting pen in their handwriting books and when ready will use this pen for other types of writing, but not note taking or drafting. The start of each new academic year will require children to prove their handwriting standard to the Head of School in order to then achieve a handwriting pen, sticker and award.

Key Stage Teaching

FOUNDATION

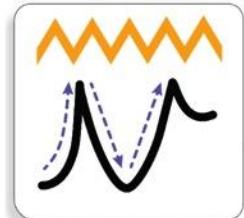
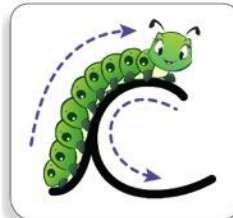
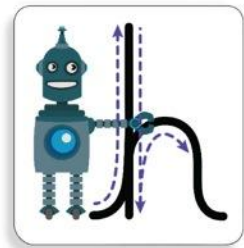
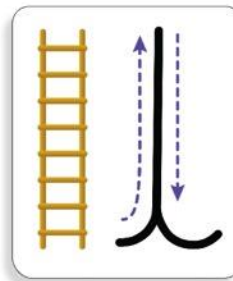


- Sit in the correct position and hold a pencil correctly to allow fluid movement of the nib.
- Improve fine and gross motor skills by enjoying drawing pre-cursive patterns in a variety of writing materials such as modelling clay, air writing, sand trays, felt pens, crayons, pencils, IWB, iPads/tablets.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



RECEPTION

- 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.

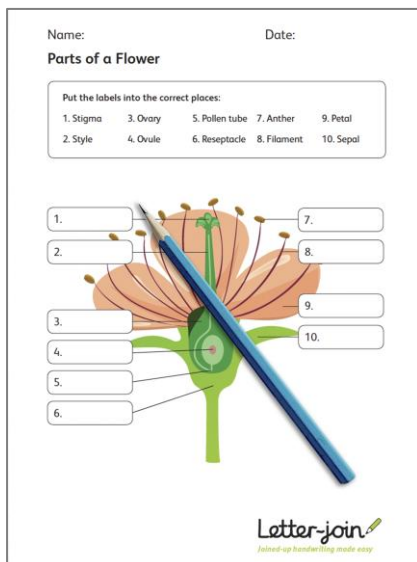


Key Stage Teaching

KEY STAGE 1



- Write legibly using upper and lower case letters with correct joins.
- Ensure that letters sit on the base line and are consistent in size with ascenders and descenders that are the correct length and formation.
- Leave the correct space between words.
- Form capital letters and use where appropriate.
- 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.
- Improve the speed of writing and begin to write automatically so promoting creativity in independent writing.



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 take 'quick notes' at a faster pace.
- *Stamina*: Have the strength and mobility to be able to write for longer periods of time without fatigue.

Have full knowledge and ability of the different forms of handwriting for different purposes:

- Neat, joined, cursive letters for writing passages and large amounts of text, lists and letters.
- Printed or capital letters for posters, notices, headings, labelling, and form filling.
- Speedy handwriting for note-taking and dictation where neatness is not as important and shortcuts, such as + instead of 'and', can be used.



Assessment

Assessment and monitoring will be continuous and may involve:

- observations
- class, group or individually monitored activities
- children's work, including English books, topic books and handwriting books

Involving Parents

Parents will be given an information hand out at the beginning of the academic year of the cursive letter formation. Parents have access to Letterjoin website and can use resources on here to support their child at home.

Cursive Lower Case Letters



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