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| C:\Users\abarton\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.MSO\2B2607BD.tmpHandwriting at Finstall First School  |   |

**Aim**

Our aim is for every pupil to develop a comfortable, fluent, legible and attractive style of handwriting.

In order to raise standards of handwriting and presentation for all pupils we have developed a consistent approach to learning handwriting throughout the school.

**What is cursive handwriting?**

The main features are:

* Each letter starts on the line
* Pupils keep the pencil on the paper giving a very fluent style
* Pupils eventually develop the ability to produce letters without thinking
* The automatic style releases the brain to concentrate on other ideas, for example, spelling, grammar, style, content and syntax



**What are the benefits of continuous cursive handwriting?**

 It is beneficial to all pupils, including those with dyslexia, as the continuous motor movement means they do not have to think about the order of the letters

 As each letter begins at the same point on the line there is less opportunity for pupils to reverse their letters.

 The motor memory in a pupil’s hands and fingers help him/her to learn new spellings as each is made up of one movement

 One style is taught throughout the school

 No need to change or relearn shapes from printed to cursive style

 Natural spaces occur between words automatically

 Fluency established by early use of joined up letters helps pupils express ideas in written form more easily

 Improvement in spelling as the hand motions required to form the words encourage muscle memory. At the same time the natural flow helps the process become automatic.

**What are the ‘cons’ of continuous cursive handwriting?**

 Letters written in cursive style can look quite different from printed letters in books.

 In the early stages, writing can look messy as the movements are slightly more complex than print-style letters.

**Methodology**

An active multi-sensory approach is used at all stages.

Handwriting is a skill which needs to be taught explicitly. Since handwriting is essentially a movement skill, correct modelling of the style is very important.

A mixture of whole class, small group and individual teaching is planned throughout the school.

**Writing Position**

Maintaining a good writing position is an important component to correct letter size, formation and spacing. Here are some important tips to get you started:

 Sit comfortably, but maintain good posture.

 Lean forward slightly.

 Leave feet flat on the floor.

 Have both arms resting on the table or desk while you work.

 Hold the pencil between your thumb and the first two fingers of your writing hand.

 Maintain constant pressure when holding the pencil.

 Be certain your grip is not too tight, and not too loose.

 If you are a right-handed writer, position the paper so that the top is slanting to your left

…..recommend that children learn the continuous cursive style.

Typically, when first learning to write, children ‘print’ their letters. They then move on to ‘joined up’ writing at a later stage. For children with dyslexia, learning two styles of handwriting can add an extra layer of difficulty and cause confusion. It is, therefore, much more helpful if a young child can learn to use a single system of handwriting right from the start.

The most widely recommended handwriting style is called continuous cursive. Its most important feature is that each letter is formed without taking the pencil off the paper – and consequently, each word is formed in one, flowing movement.

The key advantages to this system are:

By making each letter in one movement, children’s hands develop a ‘physical memory’ of it, making it easier to produce the correct shape;

Because letters and words flow from left to right, children are less likely to reverse letters which are typically difficult (like b/d or p/q);

There is a clearer distinction between capital letters and lower case;

The continuous flow of writing ultimately improves speed and spelling.

[**http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/parent/help-with-handwriting**](http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/parent/help-with-handwriting)



Cursive script –

lower case