



Birdham CE Primary School

POLICY FOR HANDWRITING

Aims

Children will develop a handwriting style that is legible, fluent and fast, following a process beginning in the Foundation Stage with "pre-letter" formation and moving through to the refinement of style in Year 6. The teaching of handwriting is a teacher-led activity that is an integral part of writing and spelling. With these objectives in mind children will be taught cursive handwriting throughout the school using a multi-sensory approach.

Key Stage 1

Children will be given every opportunity to use all their senses when practising handwriting to ensure the shapes are ingrained in the brain. They will be encouraged at all times to read, spell and write saying aloud the name and sound of the letter. They will have the opportunity to use play dough, sand, paint and wooden letters, and will trace letters using the correct sequence of movements, to make handwriting as tactile and kinaesthetic an experience as possible, until they have developed the correct letter formation. They will be encouraged to sit squarely to the table and hold the pencil correctly between the thumb and first two fingers when writing. Once they have mastered this, regular practice will focus on developing a fluent and stylish hand as they progress through the school.

Key Stage 2

Children will be taught to write in a joined cursive script maintaining consistency in size and spacing. They will be encouraged to use fluent joined writing for all writing except where other forms are required. Attention will be drawn to correct posture and pencil hold. Regular handwriting practice will take place at least twice a week with the teacher modelling the agreed letter shapes. (See below) In handwriting lessons letter strings will echo spellings being taught. Ascenders and descenders will be in proportion and parallel and letters will sit on the line. Children will be encouraged to develop a confident and consistent individual style that is legible at speed.

When writing on the board or marking, teachers will write in the agreed script as a model for children to emulate.

Agreed Letter Formation

a d g q r

i u w t

e l h k b f j

n m r x

p r s o y z

For a movie clip showing how these letters are formed and joined, please click on the following link, or visit our website.

<http://www.birdham.w-sussex.sch.uk/Resources/Handwriting.html>