



Handwriting Expectations at Sutton in Craven CP School

Review Date: April 2025

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The purpose of this policy is to produce a consistent approach towards the handwriting of written work at Sutton in Craven CP School. Quality presentation aids communication and encourages children to work towards a high standard and to take pride in every piece of work they produce.

A consistent approach by all staff should enable pupils to leave primary school with a legible, fluent and cursive handwriting style.

In order to achieve this, our aims are:

- To develop the correct pencil grip to ensure a comfortable handwriting posture.
- For all children to develop letters that are consistent in size, orientation and formation, leading into a joined (cursive) style of writing.
- For all children to develop a legible and comfortable handwriting style with increasing confidence, fluency and speed.
- To make provision for left handed children to develop free flowing writing.
- To make appropriate provision for any children with gross or fine motor skill difficulties.
- To teach children to write from left to right and top to bottom of a page.
- To become competent when using a range of writing implements.
- To acknowledge effort, celebrate achievement and value the written work of all pupils.
- To ensure that there is consistency, high standards and high expectations in the presentation of work.

We recognise that handwriting is a whole-school approach and that it is linked to the teaching of phonics, spelling and writing.

Handwriting is a skill that must be explicitly taught and practised regularly.

At Sutton in Craven CP School, we follow the 'Letter Join' scheme of developing handwriting. This is a progressive and modular scheme which teaches pupils how to form non-cursive letters accurately before teaching pre cursive joins (usually by the end of Year 2), leading to children joining all written work as they progress through Key Stage 2.

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National Curriculum Statements are highlighted in yellow

Reception

- Use pencil.
- Letter formation introduced through Little Wandle using the formation phrases in the Autumn term.
- Use Letter Join handwriting scheme from the Spring term onwards.
- Children will practise using the anticlockwise movement for letters c, o, a, d, g, q.
- Begin to look at the size of letters and where they are positioned on the line.
- By the end of Reception children will hold a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing – using the tripod grip in almost all cases.
- Write recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed.
- Write simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others.
- Begin to show accuracy and care when drawing.

Year 1

- Use pencil.
- Sit correctly at the table, holding the pencil comfortably and correctly.
- Begin to form lower-case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place.
- Understand which letters belong to which handwriting families (ie: letters formed in similar ways) and practise these. Eg: curly caterpillar letters, ladder letters, one armed robot letters, zigzag monster letters.
- Form capital letters and digits (0-9) of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower-case letters.
- Use regular, appropriately-sized finger spaces.
- Use the Letter Join handwriting scheme.

Year 2

- Use pencil.
- Form lower-case letters correctly, using the correct size relative to one another.
- Form capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower-case letters.
- Begin to use the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join some letters.
- Begin to look at joining double consonants, prefixes and suffixes, digraphs and trigraphs.
- Write capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower case letters.
- Use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters.
- Use letter families to teach handwriting - curly caterpillar letters, ladder letters, one armed robot letters, zig-zag monster letters
- GDS children begin to write cursively, following the Letter Join handwriting scheme.

Years 3 & 4

- Write using black pen.
- Write with a neat, legible, fluent style which sits upon the line, with ascenders and descenders appropriately placed.
- Increase the legibility, consistency and quality of handwriting.
- Writing is appropriately sized to fit between the lines. For example, by ensuring the downstrokes of letters are parallel and equidistant and that lines of writing are spaced sufficiently so that the ascenders and descenders of the letters do not touch.

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- Use capital letters which are clearly distinguishable from lower case letters.
- Bridge from non-cursive to cursive.
- Use the diagonal and horizontal strokes that are needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined.
- Use of the Letter Join handwriting scheme.

Year 5 & 6

- Write using black pen.
- Write legibly, fluently and with increasing speed in a style which sits upon the line, with ascenders and descenders appropriately placed.
- Writing is appropriately sized in relation to different letters and line spacing.
- Use capital letters which are clearly distinguishable from lower case letters.
- Develop a personal writing style.
- Can write at length using a joined style.
- Choosing which shape of a letter to use when given choices (eg: the letter k) and deciding whether or not to join specific letters.
- Can choose the most appropriate writing implement for a task.
- Use of Letter Join handwriting scheme.