



Fishbourne Church of England Primary School

Handwriting Policy

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At Fishbourne Church of England Primary School we start with the WHY - our core belief drives all decision making. We think deeply about the HOW, using our core belief to guide decisions on a day to day basis. Finally we decide WHAT action brings our belief to life.

Our core belief is that:

***'There is only one you in this great big world...
...make it a better place'***

This core belief is at the heart of why and how we create our policy and the policy in action.

God you made me; you created me. Psalm 119

Why?

At Fishbourne Primary School, it is our aim to encourage the progression and development of each child's handwriting throughout the schools into a fluent, legible style, creating automaticity that reduces cognitive load and allows our children to focus on their spelling and composition.

What?

At Fishbourne Primary School, we use cursive handwriting as our agreed writing style. This ensures that there is a continuity of handwriting style from KS1 through to the end of Key Stage 2. Cursive handwriting enables children to develop a neat style with the added benefit of encouraging accurate spelling.

Fully joined cursive handwriting encourages:

- Natural movement
- Correct letter formation
- Less load on memory, aiding movement from left to right
- Clearer spacing
- Increased speed
- The development of a personal style
- Less focus on the mechanics and more on the product of writing
- Improved spelling

How?

EYFS - Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage are involved in a variety of activities to develop their physical development. Both gross and fine motor skills are developed to ensure strength in the shoulder joint, elbow and lastly the wrist and finger joints.

In the EYFS, every adult gives specific attention to pencil and pen control, grip and posture in helping pupils to develop a legible cursive style. Teachers identify all left-handed pupils in their class. Left-handers should always sit on the right of a right-handed child to avoid collision.

Before cursive writing begins, children are taught to print at every opportunity – handwriting sessions, phonics lessons, writing lessons and during morning activities. In the EYFS, children are encouraged to write using a wide variety of media, from chalks and charcoal to crayons and more.

Year 1

As children start in KS1, EYFS Journals will continue into Year 1 until they are completed. Children will then have a transition book with wide lines. After this book they will use our Learning Journals which have handwriting paper. This enables children to perfect their script. In handwriting sessions, from the beginning of Autumn 2, children will be taught pre-cursive using letter-join, with all letters starting and ending on the line and capital letters starting at the top. Diagraphs will be taught with a join. Pre-cursive is always modelled in the classroom. Children who need additional support are quickly identified and supported to make accelerated progress.

Children will have access to a 'Phoneme Finder' and Pre-Cursive Script during every writing session. Children will be encouraged to fully join when they are ready. The Letter Join programme will be used in discrete handwriting sessions.

Year 2

Children will continue to use handwriting lines each time they write. They may be moved on to using narrower lines to suit the size of their writing. The Letter Join programme will continue to be used in handwriting sessions and will begin to join if they are not already. Cursive is always modelled in the classroom.

Children will have access to a 'Phoneme Finder' and Cursive Script during every writing session.

By the end of KS1, children will write in a fully cursive script, fluently and accurately.

Children across EYFS and KS1 who are identified as needing extra support will have targeted intervention, either through Closing the Gap time or use of morning activities. These children will need to be targeted during writing sessions for support of our high expectations.

KS2

Across KS2, children are expected to use the cursive script. Discrete handwriting sessions are supported through independent handwriting activities linked to phonics and spelling. The Letter Join Programme continues to be used to give children the opportunity to develop their script with increased speed and accuracy.