

Holywell School Handwriting Policy

Intent

The school aims to ensure that all pupils develop fluent, legible and confident handwriting that supports their wider literacy skills. Our approach provides a clear, progressive pathway from early mark-making to joined handwriting, ensuring consistency of practice across EYFS and KS1. We are committed to teaching handwriting explicitly, embedding it within phonics and writing lessons, and developing the fine-motor strength required for sustained writing. By establishing secure foundations early, pupils are equipped to write efficiently, enabling them to focus on composition, creativity and the effective communication of ideas.

EYFS

The school is committed to developing fluent, legible handwriting through a consistent, progressive approach from EYFS to KS1 and then through the school. In the Early Years Foundation Stage, handwriting is taught explicitly through Read Write Inc. (RWI) phonics, using the agreed mnemonics to secure accurate letter formation. Staff prioritise correct starting points, directional movement, secure tripod grip and appropriate writing posture, ensuring children sit with feet flat, backs straight and their non-writing hand steadying the page. Daily fine-motor activities—such as threading, dough work, tweezers and pegboards—are embedded to strengthen the foundational skills required for writing.

Key Stage 1 (KS1)

In Key Stage 1, pupils continue to consolidate RWI letter formation until they demonstrate consistent letter size, correct orientation and clear word spacing. We will continue to use RWI handwriting development until pupils are secure in **Stage 2**. When secure, pupils are introduced to pre-cursive handwriting, including entry and exit strokes, letter families with lead-ins and simple diagonal and horizontal joins, ensuring a smooth transition towards a joined, fluent style. Once pupils have completed Stage 2 using RWI, we will transition into using Letter Join programme used across the school.

Key Stage 2 (KS2)

In Key Stage 2, pupils refine and develop a fluent, legible cursive handwriting style using the Letter Join programme to support consistent modelling and practice. Teaching focuses on securing all standard joins and ensuring pupils maintain a consistent slant, size and spacing across longer pieces of writing. As pupils progress, they are supported to increase their writing fluency and speed while retaining clarity. Staff encourage pupils to adapt their handwriting according to purpose—for example, producing neat, polished handwriting for published or display work, and using a quicker, efficient style for note-taking or drafting. High expectations for presentation apply across all subjects: pupils write the date and learning objective using the agreed school format, use pencil until their handwriting is consistently neat, fluent and joined (typically from Year 5 onwards for pen), underline titles with a ruler, and cross out errors with a single straight line. Doodling or scribbling on pages is not permitted, ensuring that pupils take pride in the presentation of their work.