



INTRODUCTION TO THE USE OF THE NELSON HANDWRITING SCHEME

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Aims

Handwriting is a taught skill and staff place a high value on teaching and sustaining good handwriting. We believe that children's self-esteem and pride in their work can be raised by good quality presentation. Our aim in this policy is to teach children correct letter formation, joining and good handwriting habits, so that they can write fluently and legibly and by the end of Key Stage 2 (KS2) to begin to develop a distinctive style.

Teaching and Organisation

We seek to fulfil the requirements of the Primary Framework and the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. Planning is based on objectives taken from these frameworks. In their short term planning, teachers outline specific objectives for groups of children and individuals in order to ensure progress.

We use the Nelson handwriting scheme throughout the school, thus ensuring that there is a continuity and progression across classes.

Handwriting is taught regularly as a class and / or group lesson in all year groups. Teachers use Nelson resources which include an interactive whiteboard, a CD-ROM and workbooks.

During lessons, we ensure that children sit comfortably, position their paper/book and hold their writing implement correctly using their other hand to hold their work firmly. Chair height is correct for each year group.

In the early years and at Key Stage 1, children are observed closely during the lesson to ensure that letter formation is correct. For children who are still forming some letters incorrectly in Key Stage 2, this close observation and subsequent correction is maintained.

(Key Stage 1 covers the classes for years 1 and 2. Key Stage 2 covers the classes for years 3 to 6)

In addition to specific handwriting lessons, children are expected to apply their learning in their exercise books and to show care for the presentation of their work. Regular opportunities for children to produce presentation work are also planned, for example in topic books or for display. Children are expected to show care for their work-books, present their work with care, date work, underline where necessary and not make any marks on the covers.

Teachers set a good example to children by modelling good handwriting when writing on the board, the Interactive White Board, or when marking children's books. Teachers strive to model the Nelson style and use the appropriate joins, demonstrating the fluency and legibility of the style as shown in the examples below:-

The Letter forms

a b c d e f g h i j k l m
n o p q r s t u v w x y z

The Capital letters

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N
O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

The Numerals

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

The joining sets

Set 1

a c d e h i k l m
n s t u

Twelve letters with exit flicks plus s.

Set 2

a c d e g i j m n o
p q r s u v w x y

Nineteen letters which start at the top of the x-height.

Set 3

b f h k l t

Six letters which start at the top of the ascender.

Set 4

f o r v w

Five letters which finish at the top of the x-height.

The break letters

b g j p q x y z

Eight letters after which no join is made. Joins are not made to or from the letter z.

The joins

The first join Set 1 → Set 2 in am
The second join 1 → 3 ab ch
The third join 4 → 2 oa wo
The fourth join 4 → 3 wh ob
The break letters bigger

The joined up sentence

The quick brown fox
jumps over the lazy
dog.