

Freeland CE Primary School

'Aspiring and achieving together'

How we teach Handwriting-
Information
for Parents and Carers



At Freeland, we believe that handwriting needs to be taught. Handwriting is a motor activity (a movement stored in our body rather than in our memory). As our hands and fingers control movements in handwriting, it is in our hands that the kinaesthetic memory lies. This controls the direction and shape of each letter.

An effective handwriting style is one that is quick and easy to learn. It should also be neat and legible. An automatic, fluent style of handwriting releases the brain to concentrate on other things such as spelling, grammar, style and creative content.

Freeland CE Primary School teaches **continuous cursive handwriting**. As the name suggests, pupils learn to join letters in a series of continuous flowing movements or patterns without taking the pen off the page). The style is quick and easy to learn, and reinforces directional movement (left to right) and lessens the chance of reversing letters by eliminating the need to lift the pencil between letters.

The continuous cursive style we have chosen to teach in school is as follows; note that loops are only formed on letters which descend below the line.

*The quick brown fox jumps
over the lazy dog. Baa baa
black sheep, have you any
wool? Yes sir, yes sir, three
bags full.*

Scheme of Work

Time allocation:

Daily in Year 1; twice weekly in Year 2-6 (approximately 20 minutes per session). Handwriting will be taught alongside phonics and spellings at all ages.

Content:

Foundation

- Pre-writing- patterning.
- Individual letter formation.
- Word formation based on letter groups (onset and rime e.g. c-at, b-at)

Year 1

- Continue individual letter formation and common letter strings.
- Word formation.
- Make links with phonics and spelling.

Year 2/3 onwards

- Practise words and sentences as part of phonological development.
- Make links between handwriting, spelling and writing e.g. poems and dictated sentences.
- Children will be expected to join fluently by the end of year 2.

All teachers will aim to embed this handwriting style so that it becomes automatic and part of their everyday work.

Special Educational Needs

Research has shown that children who have special educational needs can benefit from this style of writing. Freeland teachers will endeavour to work with any child who might be experiencing difficulties and adjust their teaching accordingly.

If you have any further questions about handwriting, please see your child's class teacher who will always be happy to help.

How to help your child

Whenever your child is working, you can make sure that they have the correct **pencil hold** and **posture** as shown below:

Tripod Grip

Standard grip: Hold pencil with **thumb + index finger**.
Pencil rests on middle finger.



Pencil hold:

- Pencil between thumb and forefinger.
- Middle finger provides extra support
- Older children (with different grips) may be left if they can write comfortably and neatly. Changing their grip may not be in their best interest and will be at the discretion of the class teacher.

Posture:

- Feet flat on the floor.
- Head up, not resting on the table or a hand.
- Paper at the correct angle (<math><45^\circ</math> to the writer).
- Spare hand steadies the paper.

