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Handwriting Policy

Intent

Handwriting is a skill which, like reading and spelling, affects written communication across the curriculum. Children must be able to write with ease, speed and legibility.

Cursive handwriting teaches pupils to join letters and words as a series of flowing movements and patterns. The development of this fluid style when mastered allows children to apply their energy into the content of their writing as opposed to the formation of the letters themselves.

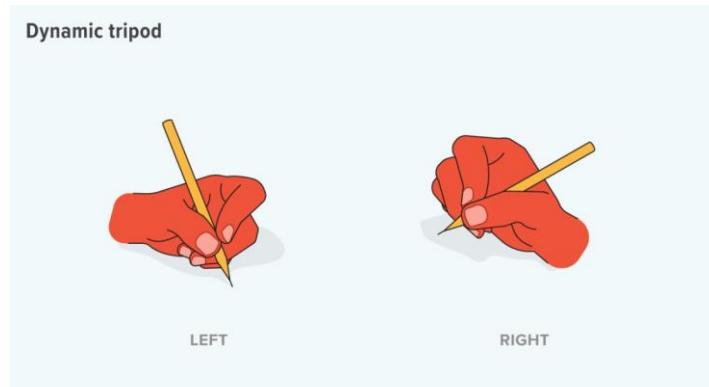
Handwriting skills are taught regularly and systematically throughout the school. At South Stoke Primary our aims in teaching handwriting are:

- To enable children to write in a consistent, well presented and legible format.
- To have a consistent approach across Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and 2 when teaching handwriting.
- To ensure that from the Summer Term of Year 1 to the end of Year 6 the majority of children are using a cursive writing style.
- To make sure all children know the difference between lower and upper case letters.
- To ensure the skills taught at Key Stage 1 continue to develop throughout Key Stage 2.

Implementation

Children will be taught to:

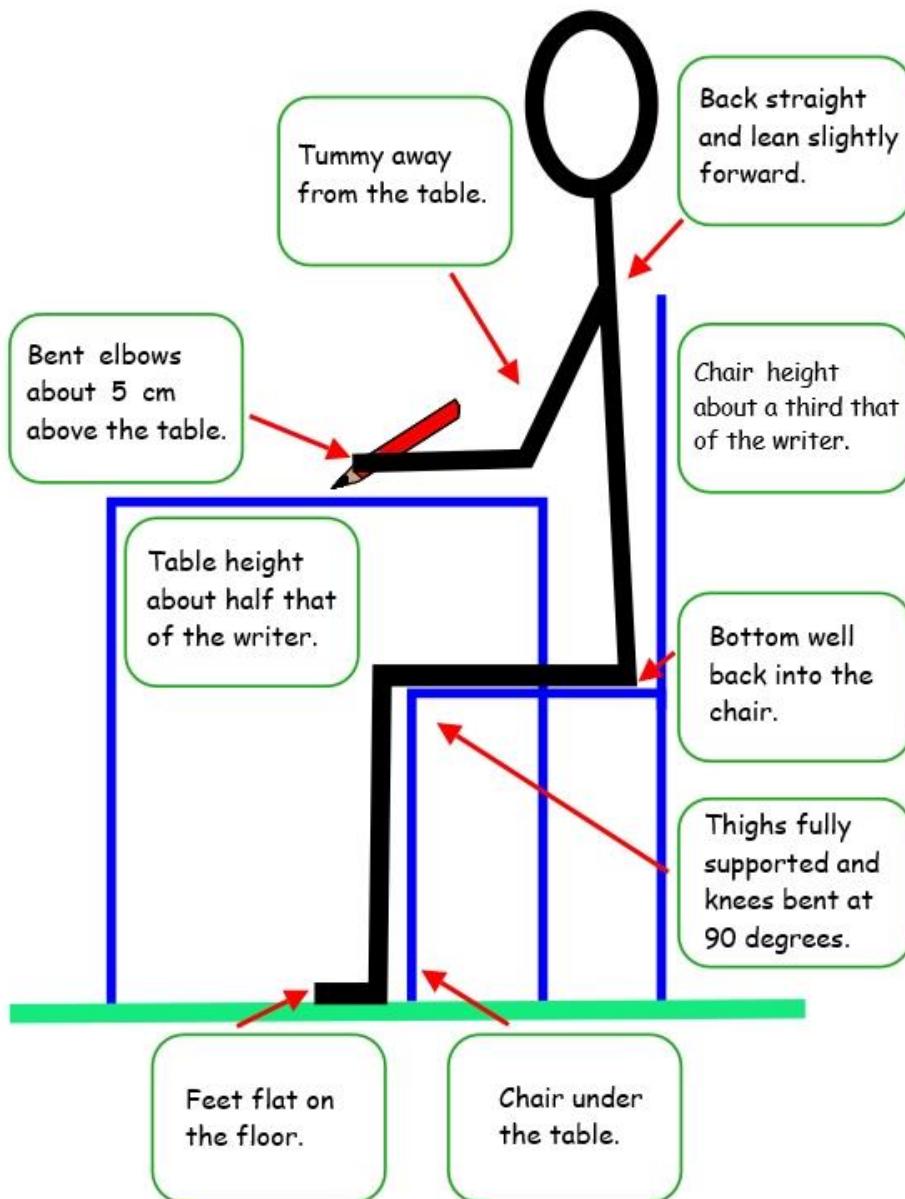
- hold a pencil correctly Children should be encouraged to use the tripod pencil grip, where the pencil is gripped between the index finger and the thumb. The middle finger is then used to support the underside of the pencil as shown below.



- adopt the correct posture when writing
- Children should be encouraged to adopt the correct writing position as shown below.



Best Sitting Position

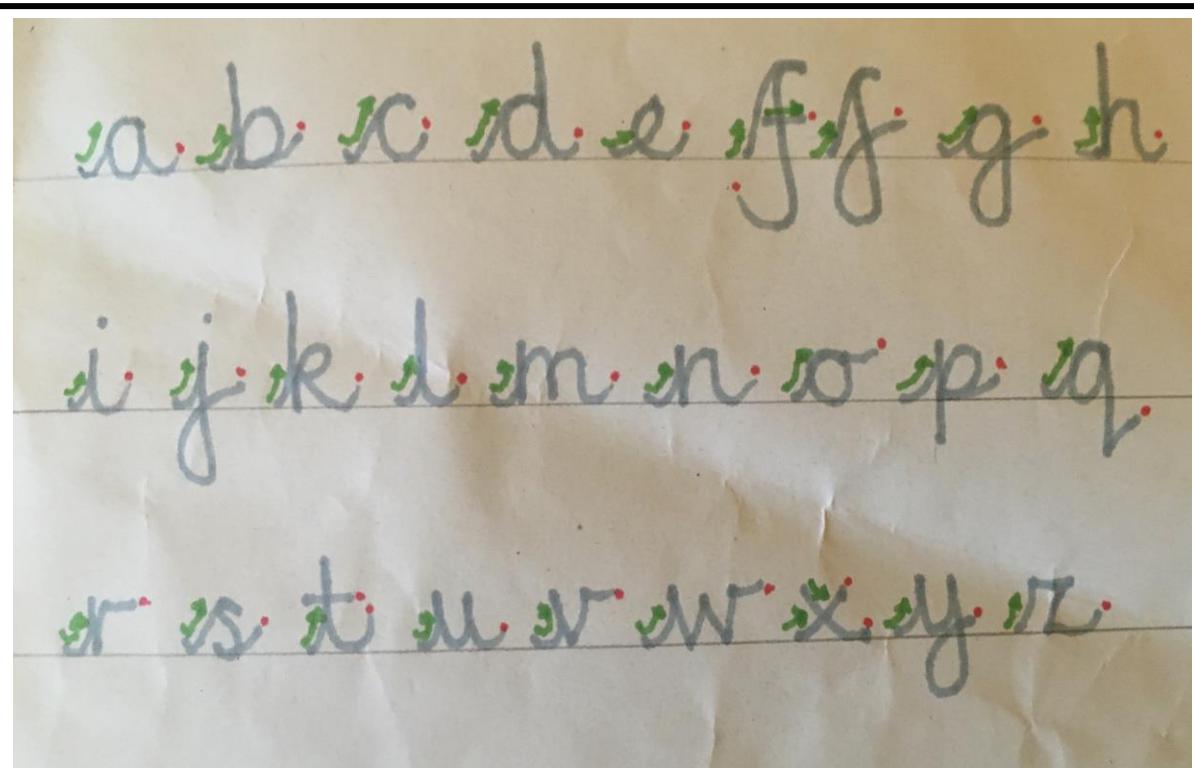


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- children who are left handed should reposition the paper the other way and sit to the left hand side if seated next to a right handed child
- write from left to right and from top to bottom of the page
- start and finish letters correctly in a cursive style (from the end of the Autumn Term of year 1 onwards)
- form regularly sized and shaped letters

- use regular spacing between letters and words
- take a pride in their written work and the overall presentation.

The cursive script agreed at South Stoke Primary School is shown below.



We recognise that some letters affect the flow of writing such as f and x.
Therefore adaptations, based on the individual child, can be made.

Age related expectations are set out below:

Foundation Stage

At this stage of their schooling children will experiment with a variety of writing media. Staff will encourage children to:

- develop gross motor control through the use of large equipment for mark making such as big chalks, paint brushes, finger paints, shaving foam etc.
- develop their fine motor skills and use a range of mark making tools such as pencils, pens and crayons.
- talk about shapes and movement.
- practise the main handwriting movements for the three basic letter shapes c,l and r.

As the children progress they will be taught to form letters correctly starting using Read Write Inc's guidance on letter formation using the RWI mnemonics to aid the correct letter formation.

Our aim is that by the end of foundation stage all children hold a pencil correctly and form all letters and numbers correctly.

Errors in pencil grip and letter formation will be immediately addressed, modelled and corrected. Initially foundation children will use unlined paper as the focus is correct formation rather than size or positioning.

Year 1

In year 1 all children will receive a daily handwriting session for 10-15mins. (This may be as part of a RWI session)

During the Autumn Term cursive handwriting will be introduced starting with beginning each letter from the line and going up individually before then moving on to joining them together to form words.

Handwriting can also be linked to phonic development with the introduction of new sounds written in a cursive style during RWI lessons.

Our aim is that by the end of year one the majority of children will be forming all letters correctly and joining in a cursive script.

Year 2

In Year 2 children will be encouraged to continue the development of basic joins which they should transfer into all their independent writing.

They will also continue to link their handwriting to their phonic development as they learn to write new sounds using a cursive writing style.

Year 3

In Year 3 children will continue to develop their use of cursive handwriting building upon the skills they have developed in Key stage 1.

Year 4

Children will be expected to use cursive handwriting in all areas of the curriculum. If any child is not on track to reach these expectations, they will receive additional support through small group intervention groups.

Years 5&6

Once a neat and legible style has been achieved children are able to modify their handwriting to suit their individual personalities. Evidence of a joined style can be assessed in directed writing activities.

Handwriting Equipment

Children will use line sizes appropriate to their stage in writing. During handwriting sessions specific handwriting paper with 3 lines may be used.

Children will also practise using the same sized lines as their other books so that children skills are transferable and that the same expectation of handwriting is set across all writing experiences.

Children should use a sharp HB pencil for all handwriting, but in some cases children may use triangular pencils, pencil grips or other modified resources to meet their individual needs.

Assessment

A uniformed handwriting style should be consistent throughout the school; this will be evident on display boards and monitored through lesson observations and book scrutiny.

Marking and Feedback

We emphasise constructive feedback. In handwriting sessions and during independent work it is important that incorrect pencil grip and incorrect letter formation are identified and corrected at the point it occurs. Feedback can take the form of:

- discussion with the child
- empathetic modelling where appropriate
- showing work to other children or adults
- taking work home
- posts on SeeSaw
- stickers and stamps

Impact

Handwriting is a skill which affects written communication across the curriculum.

Our aim is that children are able to write with ease, speed and legibility.

By year 6 children will have a handwriting style that uses flowing movements and patterns. This handwriting will be demonstrated in all writing across the curriculum. Writing should be fluid in style to allow children to apply their energy into the content of their writing as opposed to the formation of the letters themselves.