

**Brinscall St John's C.E./
Methodist Primary School**



Handwriting Policy

Date of policy: Autumn 2025

Date approved by Governing Body: Aut 2025

Review date: Autumn 2027

Letter Join



Handwriting Policy

At Brinscall St. John's we are very proud of our pupil's handwriting and take particular care in our handwriting style. We use Letter-join's on-line handwriting resource and Lesson Planners as the basis of our handwriting policy as it covers all the requirements of the National Curriculum.

Objective

Handwriting is a basic skill that influences the quality of work throughout the curriculum. By the end of Key Stage 2 all pupils should have the ability to produce fluent, legible and, eventually, speedy joined-up handwriting, and to understand the different forms of handwriting used for different purposes.

Our intention is to make handwriting an automatic process that does not interfere with creative and mental thinking.

Aims:

- To develop a neat, legible, speedy handwriting style using continuous cursive letters, which leads to producing letters and words automatically in independent writing.
- To establish and maintain high expectations for the presentation of written work.
- For pupils to understand, by the end of Year 6, the importance of neat presentation and the need for different letterforms (cursive, printed or capital letters) to help communicate meaning clearly.



Expectations

All teaching staff are encouraged to model the printed or cursive style of handwriting chosen for each year group in our school in all their handwriting, whether on whiteboards, displays or in pupils' books.

Consistency throughout the school

Pupils should experience coherence and continuity in the learning and teaching of handwriting across all school years and be encouraged to take pride in the presentation of their work. Our objective is to help pupils enjoy learning and developing their handwriting with a sense of achievement and pride.

Handwriting frequency

Handwriting is a cross-curricular task and will be taken into consideration during all lessons. Formal teaching of handwriting will be carried out regularly and systematically to ensure Key Stage targets are met.

Designated timetabled sessions will be done throughout school on a Friday morning and the focus of our 'Early Bird' sessions from 8:45am – 9:00am will be handwriting to allow children time and space to practice.

Pens and pencils

Children will start handwriting using a soft pencil. When fine motor skills have been established,

children will receive their pen licence, which will be at any point from Y2-Y6, when the class teacher deems this appropriate. Pupils will write in blue ink, preferably a blue ball point pen.

Inclusion

For children who experience handwriting difficulties due to fine motor development, including those who are left-handed and those with special educational needs, the appropriate additional support will be put into place. Letter-join's Lesson Planners all include differentiation activities for extra practice/challenge.



Key Stage Teaching

Early Years

For our youngest pupils we teach short handwriting lessons on a daily basis, which will include the following:

- enhancing gross motor skills such as air-writing, pattern-making and physical activities
- exercises to develop fine motor skills such as mark-making on paper, whiteboards, sensory trays, iPads, tablets, etc.
- becoming familiar with letter shapes, their sounds, formation and vocabulary
- correct sitting position and pencil grip for handwriting



Module 1 Cursive: Early Years teaches pre-cursive patterns and cursive, lower case letters. It starts with fine and gross motor skills warm-up exercises, correct sitting position and tripod pencil grip.

The first module is divided into three sections covering:

- pre-cursive patterns
- easy letters and words
- harder letters and words

At the end of this module, children should be able to recognise and form all the cursive, lowercase letters of the alphabet and write words using the correct joining techniques.



Key Stage 1: Years 1 and 2

Teaching progresses from five short, to three longer lessons per week:

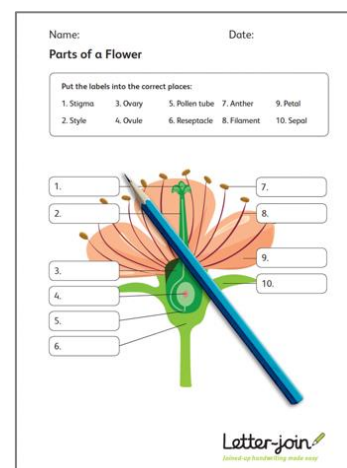
- continuing with gross and fine motor skills exercises
- strengthening handwriting, learning and practice
- numerals, capitals and printed letters; where and when to use, learning and practice
- KS1 SATs SPaG exercises



Module 2 Cursive contains lessons for teaching how to write capital letters, printed letters, numbers and symbols, whilst reinforcing cursive handwriting using Letter-join's on-line and printed resources. It is divided into three sections covering:

- warm-ups, letter families and capital letters
- printed letters
- numbers and symbols

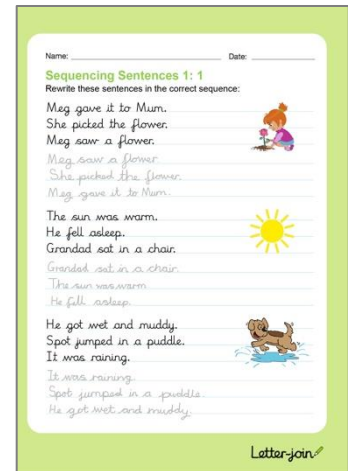
On finishing this module, children should be confident in writing all the capital and printed letters, numbers and symbols and start to become familiar with their use.



Module 3 Cursive: Year 2 includes lessons to improve letter formation and orientation of letters through regular practice and to support spelling, grammar and punctuation in readiness for KS1 SATs. The sections in this module cover:

- letter families
- high frequency words
- joining techniques
- sequencing sentences
- dictation exercises
- times table facts
- SPaG practice for KS1 SATs

With the regular handwriting practice throughout this module, children should now be developing the fluency and speed of their writing.



Lower Key Stage 2: Years 3 and 4

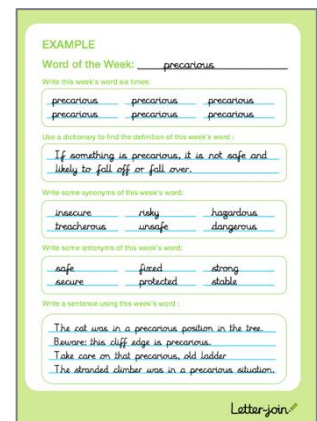
Handwriting lessons will continue twice a week in Lower Key Stage 2.

Module 4 for Year 3 is targeted at children in lower KS2 where pupils should be using a cursive style throughout their independent writing in all subjects, helping to refine their handwriting in line with the requirements of each lesson. This module covers topics such as dictation, double letters, number vocabulary, palindromes, tongue twisters, MFL (French and Spanish), onomatopoeia, simile and statutory spellings.

Completion of Module 4 should ensure improvement in the legibility, consistency and quality of the children's handwriting through a variety of resources which link handwriting to other areas of the curriculum.

Module 5 for Year 4 focuses on using handwriting practice to support other subjects in the curriculum and, at the same time, builds on fluency and consistency. This module aims to promote meaningful links with other subjects such as English, maths, science, geography, French and Spanish. Making such links enables children to apply the skills they are learning in context and also provides depth to the curriculum.

Learners will continue to build on producing fluent, consistent and legible handwriting through the regular practice offered in this module's lessons.



On concluding this module, children will have practised applying size-appropriate handwriting to all areas of the curriculum whilst maintaining fluency and legibility.

Upper Key Stage 2: Years 5 and 6

More advanced handwriting techniques will be taught during weekly lessons:

- reinforcing cursive handwriting across the curriculum
- form-filling/labelling using printed and capital letters
- dictation exercises promoting quick note-taking and speedy handwriting writing skills
- KS2 SATs SPaG practice

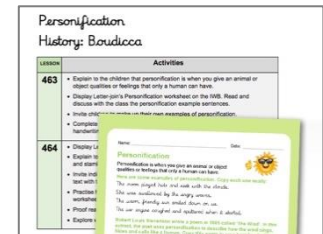
Module 6 for Year 5 continues to build on combining fluent handwriting with other subjects across the curriculum.

In this module, learners will have plenty of opportunity to develop the stamina and skills to write at length, with accurate spelling and punctuation. With Letter-join's wide range of resources they will be able to work towards producing consistently neat and well-presented handwriting in all curriculum subjects.

On completing this module, children should be producing cursive writing automatically, enabling them to focus on the content of their work rather than the process of writing.



Module 7 Year 6 presents learners with a range of tasks where they have to decide on an appropriate style of handwriting. Promoting speedy, fluent writing continues to be a strong feature. Challenging dictation exercises will refine pupils' revising and checking skills as well as boosting their handwriting speed, stamina and fluency. A range of curriculum-based worksheets will give pupils the opportunity to practise writing at length.



Module 7 also contains a series of worksheets to aid KS2 SATs SPaG revision. They are designed to support year 6 pupils in meeting expected standards for spelling, punctuation and grammar, with lots of SPaG preparation and plenty of handwriting practice.

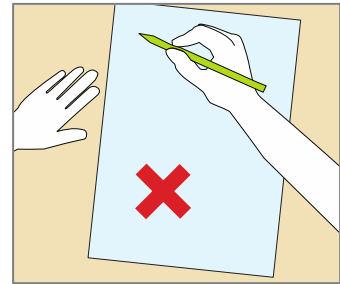
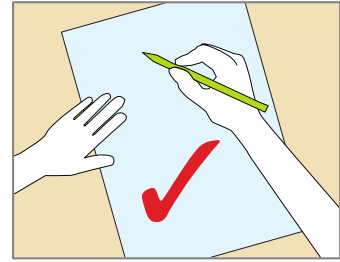
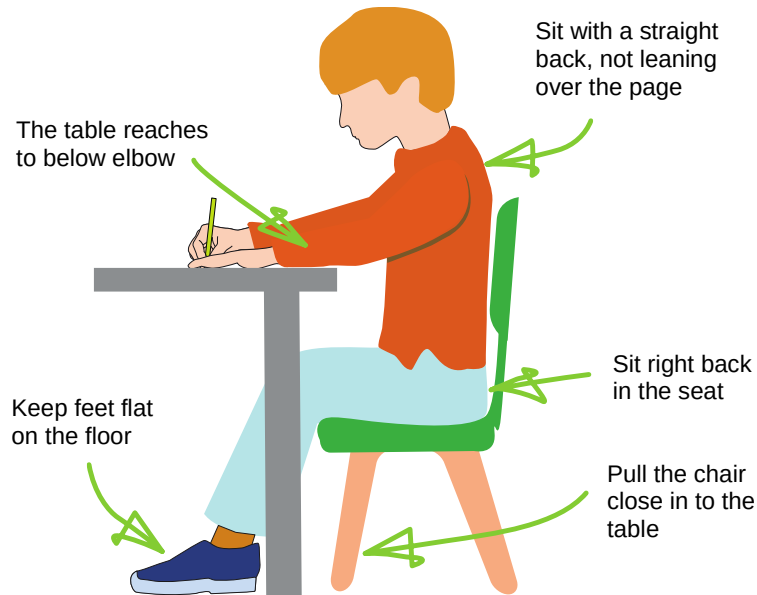
By the end of this module, children should be able to adapt their handwriting for a range of tasks and purposes and to create different effects. They should be clear about what standard of handwriting is appropriate for a particular task, for example, quick notes, a final handwritten version, an un-joined style or capital letters. All of these writing styles are covered in this module.



Correct posture and pencil grip for handwriting

Pupils should be taught to sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly.

SITTING POSITION

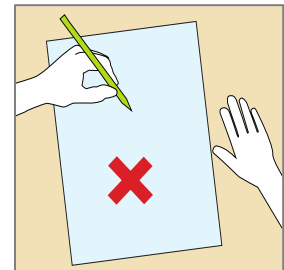
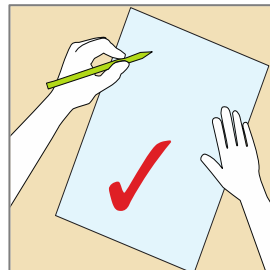
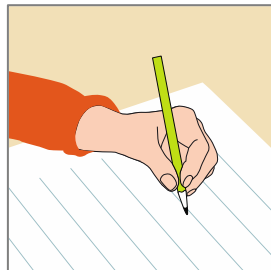


Paper position for right-handed children.

LEFT-HANDED CHILDREN

Left-handed children may find it difficult to follow the movements of right-handed teachers as they model letter formation (and vice versa). Teachers should demonstrate to left-handers on an individual or group basis.

- Left-handed pupils should sit to the left of a right-handed child so that they are not competing for space.
- Pupils should position the paper/book to their left side and slanted, as shown.
- Pencils should not be held too close to the point as this can interrupt pupils' line of vision.
- Extra practice with left-to-right exercises may be necessary before pupils write left-to-right automatically.



Paper position for left-handed children.

The Tripod Pencil Grip

Both right and left handed children should be encouraged to use the tripod grip which allows the pen/pencil to be held securely whilst allowing controlled movements of the pen/pencil nib. We use the Tripod Grip Rhyme:

Right-handed pencil grip



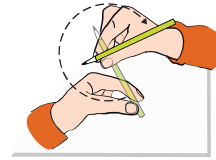
Point away the pencil,



Pinch it near the tip,



Lift it off the table,

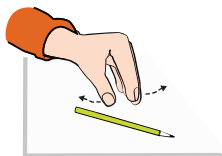


Spin it round...



and grip.

Left-handed pencil grip



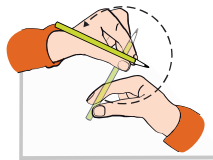
Point away the pencil,



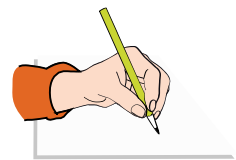
Pinch it near the tip,



Lift it off the table,



Spin it round...



and grip.

Appendix

Cursive Lower Case Letters



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

Numbers and Symbols

0 1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8 9

+ - × ÷ =

() # % &

@ / £ \$ €

Letter-join 



Brinscall St John's CE and Methodist Primary School

Handwriting and Presentation Non-Negotiables

Handwriting

All classes from reception to Year 6 follow the letter join cursive writing scheme.

Handwriting is taught in a discrete lesson during early bird work daily within all classes from Y1-Y6 and consolidated within all other subject areas.

Within EYFS, Handwriting is taught daily within the phonics lessons and is given high priority when completing focused writing tasks. Handwriting prompt sheets should be accessible within several areas of provision and regular praise and encouragement given for children to form letters accurately using their lead ins when in the provision.

Cursive handwriting is used at all times, in all lessons following the letter join scheme, this includes writing displayed on working walls.

Handwriting prompt sheets should be available in all classes and used where needed to support individual children.

Presentation

Children within Y2 and above will write the long date and LO within all pieces of work and then underline these with a ruler. The short date is written for mathematics with dots between the numbers.

Each line of writing is begun near the margin.

When a mistake is made, it is crossed out with one single line – we do not use rubber in books. Teacher's writing is a good, clear example of cursive writing modelling the Letter Join scheme. A ruler is used to rule off the last piece of work.

Pen Licence

These will be given when a child demonstrates good handwriting and presentation within 3 pieces of work, one of these should be in a curriculum subject. A licence may be given to any child from Year 2 upwards. These will be awarded within celebration assembly.

Books

All classes from Y1 to Y6 will have a separate GPS and handwriting book.

Children will start a handwriting lesson with the short date and a H or in a circle next to the date.

Handwriting does not need to be marked but there should be evidence of verbal feedback being given and modelling/support of incorrect formation.

Presentation within all subjects should be of the same high expectation and standard.

Updated Autumn 2025 By A Lewis / J Owen Review July 2025