



## Hillside Primary School

### Handwriting Policy

Here at Hillside Primary School we are very proud of our pupil's handwriting and take particular care in our cursive, handwriting style. We use the Letter-join programme as the basis of our handwriting policy that covers all the requirements of the 2014 National Curriculum. Handwriting is a basic skill that influences the quality of work throughout the curriculum. At 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.

### School Aims

We aim for our pupils to develop a neat, legible, speedy handwriting style using continuous cursive letters that leads to producing letters and words automatically in independent writing.

By the end of Year 6 pupils will understand the importance of neat presentation and the need for different letterforms (cursive, printed or capital letters) to help communicate meaning clearly.

### Method

To ensure the consistent approach to handwriting the teachers and staff at Hillside are encouraged to use neat, joined-up cursive writing for tasks including marking, when writing on the IWB and on displays [if they are not being word-processed].

### 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 aim is to help pupils enjoy learning and developing their handwriting with a sense of achievement and pride.

### Handwriting frequency

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

## **Early Years**

For our youngest pupils we aim for two to three weekly sessions totalling 30 to 45 minutes that will include the following;

- Movements to enhance gross motor skills such as air-writing, pattern making, dancing.
- Exercises to develop fine motor skills such as making marks on paper, whiteboards, blackboards, sand trays, iPads and tablets.
- Letter learning to familiarise letter shapes, formation and vocabulary.

## **Years 1 to 3:**

Tuition will continue with two or three weekly sessions totalling 30 to 45 minutes covering:

- Gross and fine motor skills exercises.
- Cursive handwriting reinforcement, learning and practice.
- Numerals, capitals and printed letters: where and when to use, learning and practice.

## **Years 4 to 6:**

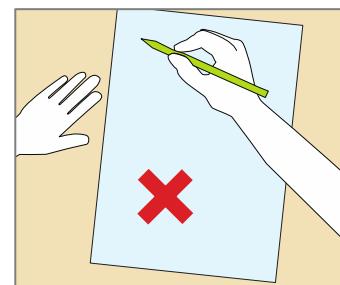
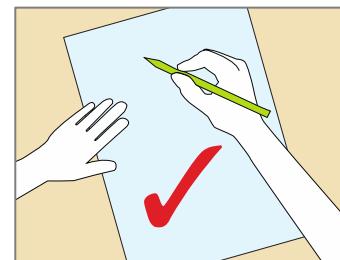
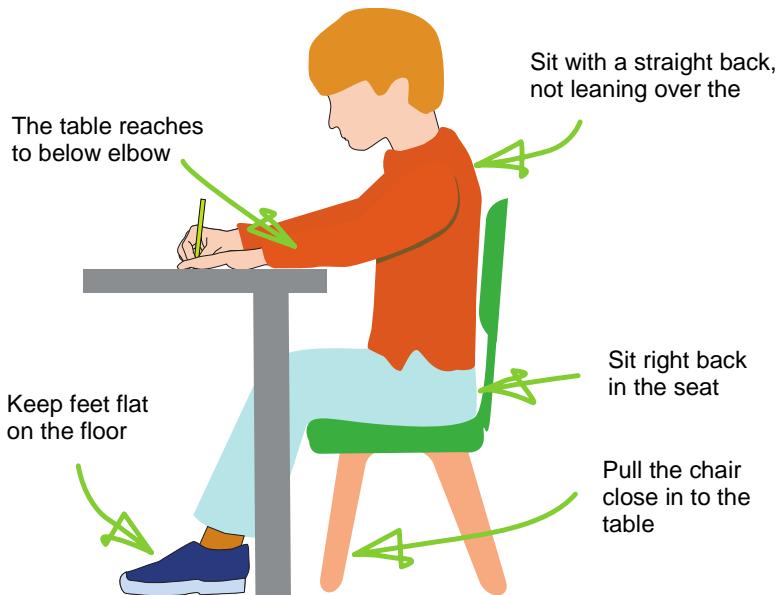
More advanced handwriting techniques will be taught during two or three weekly sessions totalling 30 to 45 minutes teaching:

- Cursive handwriting re-enforcement.
- Form-filling/labelling using printed and capital letters.
- Dictation exercises to teach the need for quick notes and speedy handwriting writing.

## **Correct posture and pencil grip for handwriting**

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

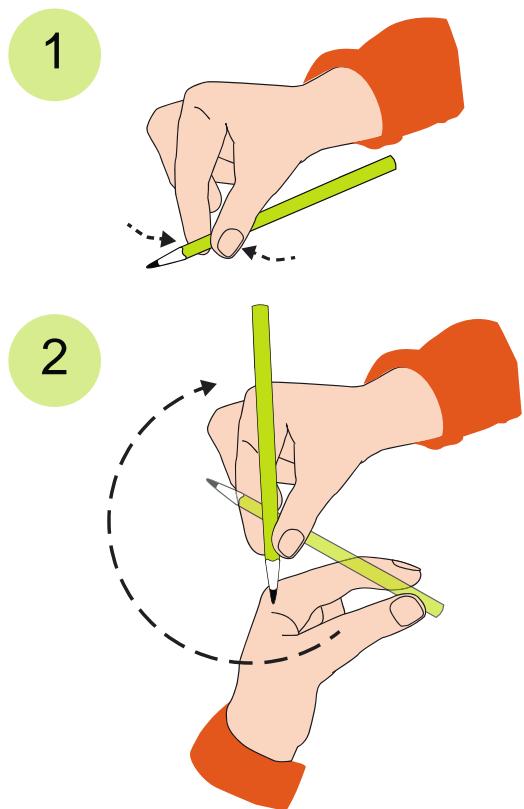
### SITTING POSITION



Paper position for right-handed children

## **The tripod pencil grip**

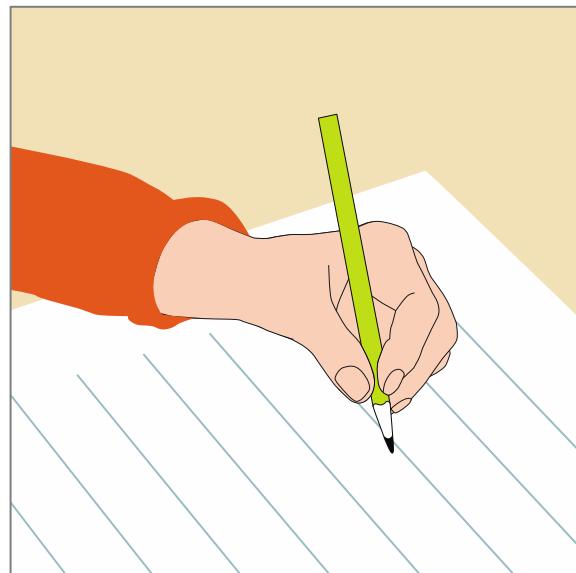
Both right and left handed children should be encouraged to use the tripod grip which allows the pen/pencil to be held securely whilst allowing controlled movements of the pen/pencil nib.



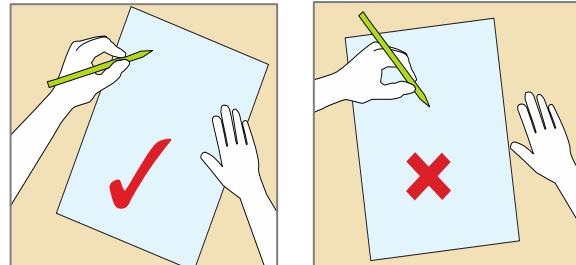
- 1) Grip the pencil with your index finger and thumb with the nib pointing away.
- 2) With your free hand, spin the pencil from underneath.
- 3) Use your middle finger to support the underside of the pencil.

## **Left Handed Children**

Left-handed children may find it difficult to follow right-handed teachers as they demonstrate 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

## **Inclusion**

Children whose handwriting is limited by problems with fine motor skills, including left-handed children, and children with special educational needs, will be given one-to-one tuition to help achieve their optimum handwriting level.

## **Pens and pencils**

Children are encouraged to start handwriting using a soft pencil. When fine motor skills have been established a handwriting pen can be used.

## **Key Stage Teaching**

### **Foundation**

- Sit in the correct position and hold a pencil correctly to allow fluid movement of the nib.
- Improve fine and gross motor skills by enjoying drawing pre-cursive patterns in a variety of writing materials such as modelling clay, air writing, sand trays, felt pens, crayons, pencils, IWB, iPads/tablets.
- Understand the language need to describe pencil movements in preparation of letter formation.
- Focus on patterns which build on the three basic letter shapes.
- Write their own name confidently. (Not necessarily with lead ins and lead outs)
- Form some letters confidently with lead ins and lead outs

### **Reception**

- Hold a pencil in an effective manner for writing and be encouraged to correct any errors in grip or stature.
- Understand that letters are written on a base line and that all cursive letters ‘start on the line’ and ‘end with a hook’.
- Begin to form some recognisable joined-up cursive letters, capital letters and numerals.
- Understanding different shaped letter families.
- Leave the correct space between words.
- Form many letters confidently with lead ins and lead outs

## **Key Stage 1**

### **Year 1**

- Write legibly using upper and lower case letters with some letters joins.
- All individual letters have a lead-in and a lead-out stroke
- Ensure that letters sit on the base line.
- Form capital letters and use where appropriate and understand that they do not join to lower case letters.
- Form numerals that are consistent in size and sit on the base line.
- Begin to form printed letters and understand when they are to be used.

## **Year 2**

- Ensure that letters are consistent in size with ascenders and descenders that are the correct length and formation.
- Write legibly using upper and lower case letters with confident letters joins.
- Improve the speed of writing and begin to write automatically so promoting creativity in independent writing.
- Form printed letters and understand when to use printed or cursive.

## **Key Stage 2**

### **Lower Key Stage 2**

Improve quality, speed and stamina of handwriting.

- *Quality:* Ensure letters are consistently sized with equal word spacing and that ascenders and descenders are parallel and do not touch words on the lines above and below.
- *Speed:* Improve speed of handwriting to allow creative writing to take precedence over the task of handwriting and be able to take ‘quick notes’ at a faster pace.
- *Stamina:* Have the strength and mobility to be able to write for longer periods of time without fatigue.

### **Upper Key Stage 2**

Have full knowledge and ability of the different forms of handwriting for different purposes:

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- Neat, joined, cursive letters for writing passages and large amounts of text, lists and letters.
- Printed or capital letters for posters, notices, headings, labelling, and form filling.
- Speedy handwriting for note-taking and dictation where neatness is not as important and shortcuts, such as + instead of ‘and’, can be used.