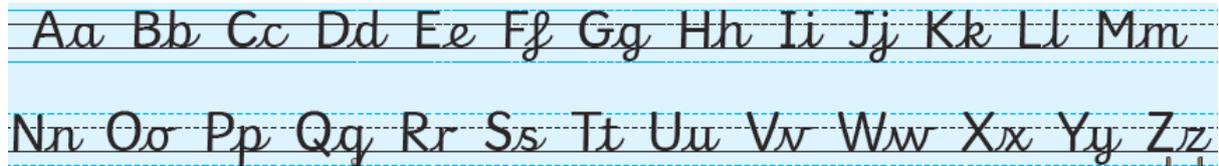


Friday Bridge Primary School
Handwriting Policy

At Friday Bridge Primary School cursive, joined up handwriting is taught. Children are introduced to this style from their earliest schooling as it is considered to be the most natural development of children's earliest attempts at writing. All teachers and TAs are expected to model the continuous cursive handwriting style in their own handwriting. See the example below:



Consistently modelling this continuous cursive style is beneficial to the children as it ensures that no changeover of writing style has to occur as the children move through the different stages of the school.

It is recognised that some children naturally develop a cursive style earlier than others and that some children may experience difficulties. All staff are aware of the need for plenty of practise including the use of pencil grips when and where appropriate.

AIMS

Each aim is considered equally important:

- To display excellent examples of handwriting in every classroom and around the school.
- To ensure that children of differing abilities are provided with appropriate and achievable goals.
- To develop a comfortable grip and posture when writing.
- To teach correct letter formation.
- To aid in the elimination of letter reversals.
- To support the development of correct spelling.
- To enable children to develop their own style of handwriting as they progress through Key Stage 2.
- To assist children in taking pride with presentation of their work.
- To appreciate handwriting as an art form.

Handwriting is a skill which, like reading and spelling, affects written communication across the curriculum. Given effective teaching, handwriting can be mastered by most pupils by the time they are seven or eight years old, enabling them with practise, to go on to develop a faster and more mature hand for life.

The first handwriting lessons are vital and the most important issue is to ensure that the children we teach learn to form the letters of the alphabet with the correct sequence of strokes from the beginning. The correct formation of all letters needs to become quite automatic and may require a lot of practise.

All children will have opportunities to watch adults writing and attempt writing for various purposes using features of different forms such as lists, stories and instructions.

Reception/Foundation Stage

Children experience a wide range of handwriting-related skills, e.g. letter and number formation in sand trays, shaving foam, through tracing, with chalk, felt tips, pencils, crayons, writing over and under teacher models in various forms, word building with magnetic letters and pattern making in various media. Pencil grips for correction of pencil hold, are also used where appropriate. Handwriting is taught in conjunction with the teaching of phonics. Letter formation is taught as each new phoneme is introduced.

Key Stage 1

Children work on handwriting skills within English lessons and in separate handwriting sessions. As each new join is learnt children are encouraged to use this within writing across the curriculum. Children are encouraged to take pride in the presentation of their work. From year 1 onwards pupils, as appropriate, will begin to use joined handwriting in their written work.

Year 3 & 4

During Year 3 children are encouraged to join whole words throughout writing across the curriculum. Children are encouraged to take pride in the presentation of their work.

Pupils who are using a clear, well-formed, cursive font, which is consistent in size, will begin writing in handwriting pens. Providing their handwriting and presentation remains at this standard or better, the child will continue to work in pen throughout KS2. Staff are able to withdraw this if a child's handwriting and presentation deteriorates and can then reissue once standards have sufficiently improved.

All Children are encouraged to take pride in the presentation of their work.

Year 5 & 6

Children will build up speed and ensure consistency in size and proportions of letters and spacing between letters and words.

Children are encouraged to use fluent, joined handwriting for all writing except where other special forms are required.

RESOURCES

Foundation

Thick, stubby paintbrushes, fine paintbrushes, thick and fine felt pens, jumbo pencils, stubby crayons, chalk, sand trays, templates, shaving foam, pencils, dry wipe pens, plastic letters, magnetic letters, stencils, rulers, hole punch, clipboards.

KS1

Variety of paintbrushes, thick and fine felt pens, jumbo pencils, stubby crayons, chalk, sand trays, letter and number templates, shaving foam, pencils, coloured pencils, pencil grips, tracing cards, sewing cards, sandpaper letters, oil pastels, ribbons, magnetic letters.

KS2

Pencil grips, HB pencils, handwriting pens.