



NEW MILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Handwriting Programme of Study

Letter formation and handwriting is taught throughout the school, from mark making to continuous cursive. Children are encouraged to use the correct pencil grip and adaptations are provided to ensure to support the development of fine motor skills where needed. Handwriting is taught separately throughout the week and is encouraged when writing in lessons across the wider curriculum.

Intent

At New Mills Primary School we understand the benefits of correct letter formation and handwriting sessions. Legible writing that can be produced comfortably, at speed and with little conscious effort allows a child to attend to the higher-level aspects of writing composition and content. We believe that handwriting with pen and paper still has an important role from early childhood through our adult lives.

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.

We aim:

- 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.

Implementation

As a school, we use a cursive handwriting scheme.

All teaching staff model the printed or cursive style of handwriting in all their writing, whether on whiteboards, displays or in pupils' books.

Pupils experience coherence and continuity in the learning and teaching of handwriting across all school years and are 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 is a cross-curricular task and will be taken into consideration during all lessons. However, formal teaching of handwriting is carried out in standalone sessions across the week.

Early Years

For our youngest pupils we teach short handwriting sessions writing within RWI, which include:

- 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, dough disco etc.
- becoming familiar with letter shapes, their sounds, formation and vocabulary
- correct sitting position and pencil grip for handwriting

Key Stage 1

Teaching progresses to using cursive letters with joins. We progress to using a leading line for our letters.

In our sessions we include:

- continuing with gross and fine motor skills exercises in Year 1
- strengthening handwriting, learning and practice
- numerals, capitals and printed letters; where and when to use, learning and practice

Key Stage 2:

More advanced handwriting techniques will be taught including:

- reinforcing cursive handwriting across the curriculum
- dictation exercises promoting quick note-taking and speedy handwriting writing skills

Impact

The impact of our teaching is to make handwriting an automatic process that does not interfere with creative and mental thinking. As a result of our teaching, children will:

- Have a neat, legible, speedy handwriting style using continuous cursive letters, which leads to producing letters and words automatically in independent writing.
- Have high expectations for the presentation of written work.
- Understand the importance of neat presentation and the need for different letterforms (cursive, printed or capital letters) to help communicate meaning clearly.