



St Mary's CE Infant School Handwriting Policy

Aims

- To develop children's confidence in their handwriting through praise and practice;
- To develop key skills to enable children to produce handwriting that is fluent and legible;
- To ensure that all children can form letters correctly.

Handwriting should be an enjoyable task in which children understand the importance of a fluent, legible hand. The school uses the 'Nelson' handwriting resources as a scheme to support staff, children and parents to achieve these aims. As all children will have varying levels of ability in handwriting, teachers will differentiate handwriting lessons and resources appropriately for pupils as with all other areas of the curriculum, including provision for left handed writers.

Materials

- All children have a Nelson handwriting resource book
- Children should have a variety of pens and pencils to experiment with
- Children may be provided with a pencil grip to support their fine motor control
- Children will be provided with laminated handwriting practice cards to trace over, laminated placements for the use of play dough and other sensory ingredients

Supporting activities

- Copying over (letters, numbers and words)
- Copying under (letters, numbers and words)
- Trace and copy patterns
- Copy words and sentences
- Write out menu
- Copy poem
- Alphabetical ordering
- Gross motor activities such as throwing and catching, kneading dough and large scale painting
- Sewing, weaving, threading, peg boards and tweezer activities are also essential activities in the Infant years to strengthen fine motor control.

Involvement with Parents

When children enter the school, parents are provided with a copy of the letter formation taught at St Mary's. Our advice to parents is that teaching capital letters first is not the best way to begin teaching letters. Initial 'welcome meetings' held by St Mary's include information for parents about the Nelson handwriting scheme.

St Mary's CE Infant School Handwriting Guide - something for the Fridge Magnet at home!

Lower case letters - as they are taught to pupils in the Reception class (pre-cursive):

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Lower case letters - as they are taught to pupils as they are introduced to joining letters (cursive):

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Capitals

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

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

The break letters (9 letters that aren't joined from) are: **b g j p q x y z s**

An example of writing using the Nelson Handwriting font:

The quick brown fox
jumps over the lazy
dog.