

- Cursive handwriting style joined handwriting is taught from Foundation Stage, where pupils are also taught to join graphemes as they learn them. Throughout Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2, progression in formation of cursive handwriting is taught alongside the teaching of new graphemes for spelling.
- By the end of year 2, pupils will have been taught to form all joins and from then on children are encouraged to use joined handwriting for all of their writing.
- In order to start learning the joins, children first need to be forming individual letters accurately so that each letter begins and ends in the correct place. They need to see the joins being written, before practising themselves.
- When children are secure in the use of all four joins, short bursts of regular practice will help to build up speed and fluency.

There are four different joins taught:

1. Diagonal join to letters without ascenders e.g. *ai ar un in am ear aw ir hu ti ki du up ag*
2. Horizontal join to letters without ascenders e.g. *ou vi wi op ow ov ri ru re we re fe fu ob ol*
3. Diagonal join to letters with ascenders e.g. *ab ul it ib if ub th ck ch it*
4. Horizontal join to letters with ascenders e.g. *ol wh ot ft fl of rt rk wh ol ob*

Teaching and Learning

As recommended by the British Dyslexia Association, we adopt a continuous cursive style of writing.

Teachers and Teaching Assistants should model the agreed cursive style when modelling writing both in class, on displays and in feedback in books. Our agreed cursive style is as below:

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

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

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS):

- Children to be introduced to cursive script at the earliest stages of writing.
- Displays in both Pre-school (name cards) and Reception should include models of cursive script.
- Implements such as chunky triangular pencils, large chalks, chunky pens and paint brushes etc are used by pupils to rehearse skills on paper, chalk boards, pavement etc. Pupils also use sensory trays with flour, oats, wood chips, rice etc. to rehearse letter formation.

Key Stage 1 & Key Stage 2:

- Within KS1, every class will have two 15 minute handwriting sessions per week. At least one of these will be a specific taught session and the other may be practise of letter formation or gross/fine motor control activities.
- Within KS2, every class will have a specific taught handwriting session for 15minutes per week.
- During handwriting sessions, children will apply taught formations to letters, words or parts of text relevant to their current learning. For example, they may practise the letters from their current phonics focus, the letter strings used in their weekly spellings, key vocabulary related to core texts /topics or use parts of text from guided reading or English texts.
- Pupils complete handwriting in their writing books. This enables children to both practise and refer back to handwriting alongside all other writing to ensure accuracy and consistency.
- Handwriting session times will be clearly indicated on class timetables and indicated to the children on class visual timetables.

Posture

- Chairs and desks within classrooms are matched to children's age and height.
- Children's backs should be straight and feet resting on the floor. A right-handed child should have their book slanted to the left. For a left-handed child the book should be slanted to the right.
- Left-handed children will usually be seated on the left hand side of a table.
- The hand which is not holding the pencil or pen should be used to hold the paper.

Implements

- Children use a standard HB pencil, well sharpened.
- Children will be taught joined up handwriting from Y2 onwards, and will change from using pencil only to pen in most subjects, but not maths, by the end of Year 4. There may, of course, be exceptions, and these will be based on individual assessment in exceptional circumstances.
- When a child demonstrates that they are writing in a consistently joined and legible style they will be given a pen licence.
- A pencil is always used within maths regardless of whether children have a pen licence.

Resources

The school uses an electronic font version of our cursive script (JointIt) to support the teaching of handwriting. This provides models of forming letters, sample words and a way to producing text using the agreed school cursive system.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

- See Pendragon Primary's Equality statement in our school brochure.
- For pupils who do not achieve the age expected standard of handwriting, teachers will use a rigorous and systematic handwriting programme to help the child to catch up.
- A child who joins the school with a neat, legible and joined style of handwriting will be allowed to maintain and refine the script they have been taught.

Assessment, Record Keeping and Reporting

- Children in the EYFS are assessed on an ongoing basis through observation, handwriting informs part of this. Within Key Stage One and Key Stage Two, handwriting is assessed as part of children's writing assessments on a half termly basis.
- By the end of each key stage, pupils are expected to know, apply and understand the matters, skills and processes specified in the relevant programme of study. Formal Assessment will take place as part of the KS1 and KS2 Statutory Assessments.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The English Subject Leader under supervision of the Governors, Headteacher and leadership team is responsible for ongoing monitoring and evaluation in order to ensure high standards and improved outcomes across the subject.