



Easingwold Community Primary School Handwriting Progression Policy

At Easingwold Community Primary School, we place great importance on mark making and handwriting and we believe it is important to encourage all children to take pride in their handwriting. We feel that the children require milestones to work towards so that they can see their progress and achieve key stage expectations.

We focus on progression from the start of a child's education and consider each component within the handwriting journey, to inform us of what each child needs next. This is to ensure they are able to achieve the intent, which is to write in a legible, fluent and joined style with speed and accuracy by the time they reach year 6.

We know that in order for a child to be capable of accurate letter formation, their motor skills and physical strength must be developed sufficiently. As such, we provide regular opportunities for physical activities, which will build muscular strength and enable the child to use their pencil in a controlled manner, whilst also improving their stamina in writing as they progress through the school.

Our policy and progression of handwriting skills follow the Early Years Foundation Stage and the National Curriculum expectations.

Reception

Physical Development- Gross motor skills

At ECPS, we understand that gross motor skills are those which require whole body movement and which involve the large muscles of the body to perform everyday functions, including sitting upright at a table. At ECPS, we provide daily opportunities for our EYFS children to develop their gross motor skills through activities such as lifting large blocks, drain pipes, crates and tyres, digging and playing games with bats and balls.

Any child beyond EYFS, who still requires gross motor skills development, will also be provided with regular opportunities to partake in these activities.

Physical Development- Fine motor skills

At ECPS, we understand that fine motor skills involve small muscles working to control movements in areas such as the hands and fingers. Developing fine motor skills helps children do certain tasks, including writing.

At ECPS, we provide daily opportunities for our reception children to develop their fine motor skills through activities such as painting, manipulating clay, building, cutting, hammering, weaving and sewing.

Any child beyond reception, who still requires fine motor skills development, will also be provided with regular opportunities to practise these skills.

Pre Writing Skills

At ECPS, we know that pre-writing skills are fundamental skills which need to be developed before a child can write. Reception children are taught how to form these pre-writing shapes as the first step in their handwriting journey. This will support their ability to form the shapes of the letters.



Letter families

At ECPS, we teach handwriting using the below letter families. After pre-writing skills are secured, we teach daily writing sessions, ensuring accurate letter formation (with a particular focus on anti-clockwise motions and lines being created top to bottom). Lower case letters are taught as well as capital letters.

- a) ladder letters (l, i, t, u, j, y)
- b) curly caterpillar letters (c, a, o, d, g, q, e, s, f)
- c) one-armed robots (r, b, n, h, m, k, p)
- d) zigzag monsters (v, w, x, z)

Our intent is that all children will achieve the expected level of development in the Early Learning Goals Physical Development and Writing:

Gross Motor Skills ELG: Children at the expected level of development will: • Negotiate space and obstacles safely, with consideration for themselves and others; • Demonstrate strength, balance and coordination when playing; • Move energetically, such as running, jumping, dancing, hopping, skipping and climbing.

Fine Motor Skills ELG: Children at the expected level of development will: • Hold a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing - using the tripod grip in almost all cases; • Use a range of small tools, including scissors, paint brushes and cutlery; • Begin to show accuracy and care when drawing.

Writing ELG: Children at the expected level of development will: • Write recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed; • Spell words by identifying sounds in them and representing the sounds with a letter or letters; • Write simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others.

Year 1

Handwriting Level 1: I can print lower-case and capital letters, and digits.

Pupils should be taught to:

- Sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and using the tripod grip.
- Begin to form lower-case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place.
- Form capital letters.
- Form digits 0-9.
- Understand which letters belong to which handwriting families and to practise these.

Year 2

Handwriting Level 2: I can print lower-case and capital letters in a pre-cursive style, and digits.

Pupils should be taught to:

- Form lower-case letters of the correct size relative to one another.
- Start using some of the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined.
- Write capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower-case letters.
- Use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters.

Year 3 and 4

Handwriting Level 3: I can write lower-case and capital letters in a cursive, joined style, and digits.

Pupils should be taught to:

- use the diagonal and horizontal strokes that are needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined.
- Increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting, [for example, by ensuring that the downstrokes of letters are parallel and equidistant, and that lines of writing are spaced sufficiently so that the ascenders and descenders of letters do not touch].

Year 5 and 6

Handwriting Level 4: I can write consistently, legibly, fluently and with speed in a cursive, joined style.

Pupils should be taught to:

- Write legibly, fluently and with increasing speed by:
- Choosing which shape of a letter to use when given choices and deciding whether or not to join specific letters.
- Choosing the writing implement that is best suited for a task.

Once a child has achieved all of the above, they will be awarded a pen licence.

How will handwriting be taught?

Reception

Handwriting is explicitly taught through daily Little Wandle sessions, as well as pen discos.

Year 1

Handwriting is explicitly taught through daily Little Wandle sessions.

Year 2, 3 and 4

Handwriting is explicitly taught daily, in line with the needs of the class, determined by continued formative assessment. Handwriting will be done in the child's single lined English book.

Year 5 and 6

Any child still requiring support with handwriting, which will be determined by the termly handwriting assessments, will receive interventions in small groups. Handwriting will be done in the child's single lined English book.

Written by Mrs Sally Davison, English Subject Leader October 2023

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