

#### Key Aims of our Handwriting Policy

- ☑ To provide children with a fluent, neat and legible handwriting style of which they can be proud.
- ☑ To develop the children's confidence in themselves as writers.
- ☑ To enhance pleasure and pride from developing an aesthetically pleasing writing style.
- ☑ To provide children regardless of their academic ability with success in their handwriting.
- ☑ To minimise typographical errors eg reversals.

#### Key Features of our Handwriting Style

- ☑ The majority of letters start on the line with an 'approach stroke'.
- ☑ The majority of letters end on the line with a 'flick'.
- ☑ The pencil does not leave the paper until the word is complete.
- ☑ t's are crossed and i's are dotted when the whole word is complete.

#### Key Goals of our Handwriting Teaching

- ☑ Developing joined handwriting for all writing except where other special forms are required.
- ☑ Developing speed and consistency in the size and proportion of letters and in the spacing between letters and words.
- ☑ Developing a range of presentational skills, eg: print script for captions, sub-headings and labels; capital letters for posters, title pages and headings.

#### Key Messages relating to the Continuous

##### Cursive Style

The British Dyslexia Association (BDA) recommends that children learn the continuous cursive style.

Often, when first learning to write, we 'print' our letters. We then move on to 'joined up' writing at a later stage. For children with dyslexia, learning two styles of handwriting can add an extra layer of difficulty and cause confusion. It is, therefore, much more helpful if a young child can learn to use a single system of handwriting right from the start.

Our handwriting style is what is known as the 'continuous cursive' style. In other words it is joined-up writing where each letter is formed without taking the pencil off the paper - and consequently, each word is formed in one, flowing movement.

#### Key Advantages of Continuous Cursive

##### Handwriting

- ☑ By making each letter in one movement, children's hands develop a 'physical memory' of it, making it easier to produce the correct shape.
- ☑ Because letters and words flow from left to right, children are less likely to reverse letters which are typically difficult (b/d or p/q)
- ☑ There is a clearer distinction between capital letters and lower case letters.
- ☑ The continuous flow of writing ultimately improves speed and spelling.



Cursive Handwriting

A Guide for Parents



All words begin on the line. Once the letters are introduced in groups they should be practised as real short words, not as individual letters.

- |                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| x The straight letters  | i l t u     |
| x The 2 o'clock letters | c a d g q s |
| x The tunnel letters    | n m h b p   |
| x The top joiners       | o r v w     |
| x The square letters    | x z         |
| x The odd letters       | f k j y e   |