



Handwriting Policy November 2025

Aims

The St. Anne's CofE Primary School Handwriting Policy aims for pupils to be explicitly taught handwriting from Reception to Year 6, to develop a consistent, cursive approach in KS2, and to achieve high levels of presentation across all subjects.

'By the end of Key Stage 2, pupils are expected to maintain legibility in joined handwriting when writing at speed.' (Teacher Assessment Framework).

Effective teaching of handwriting can only be achieved through modelling. Teachers must demonstrate letter formation and joins daily and children must practise by carefully copying and repeating

Automaticity in hand writing with ease and speed, without having to focus consciously on letter formation, allowing full attention on composition.

The Continuous Cursive Script (Appendix 1)

As recommended by the British Dyslexia Association, Pupils in Key Stage 2 will adopt a continuous cursive style of writing. Its most important feature is that each letter is formed without taking the pencil off the paper. Consequently, each word is formed in one, flowing movement. Letter formation, found at the back of this policy, should be displayed, and may be stuck into work books.

The key advantages of this script:

- By making each letter in one movement, children's hands develop a physical memory of it, making it easier to produce the correct shape;
- The starting and finishing points for all continuous cursive letters are easier to remember (they all start on the line and, other than a few exceptions (i.e. o, r) all finish on the line)
- As letters and words flow from left to right, children are less likely to reverse letters which are typically difficult (i.e. b/d, p/q)
- There is a clear distinction between capital letters and lower case;
- The transition to joined writing is simple and occurs sooner, allowing children to concentrate on the composition of the writing, rather than thinking how to form the letters.
- Words written in one set of movement, without the pen being taken off the paper, helps the motor memory store spellings.
- The continuous flow of writing ultimately improves speed and spelling.

Pen Hold

Pupils should be taught the dynamic, tripod grasp.



Dynamic-Tripod



Progression in Handwriting

Reception/ Year 1

In Reception and Year 1, pupils should be taught to form lower-case letters correctly: in the right direction, starting and finishing in the correct places.

Year 2

In Year 2, children should be taught the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters (pre-cursive).

Key Stage 2

In KS2, pupils should use joined (continuous cursive) handwriting throughout their independent writing, aiming for more fluency, legibility, and consistency.

Using a Pen

Pupils in EYFS and KS1 should use pencils for handwriting in all subjects.

KS2 teachers should use formative assessment to continually review whether pupils should be using pens or pencils, based on the quality and consistency of continuous cursive handwriting and presentation across all subjects.

It may be appropriate for pupils in KS2 to use a pen if they consistently:

- join handwriting using continuous cursive script
- use correct letter sizing for lettering of different heights
- start from the margin
- write on the line
- demonstrate high quality presentation across all subjects.

When used, pens should be used only for writing words. Pencils and rulers are to be used for underlining, crossing out, labels and diagrams.



Appendix 1: Continuous Cursive Script

Aa Bb Cc Dd

Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii

Jj Kk Ll Mm

Nn Oo Pp Qq

Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv

Ww Xx Yy Zz