

Courthouse Green Primary School 'Doing our best to be our best'

Guidance on Handwriting

At Courthouse Green we aim for children to be able to develop a legible, fluent and joined handwriting style, which they use consistently and with increasing speed, across all curriculum areas. It is an expectation that children take pride in their work at all times. This document supports the Pride and Presentation guidance and offers a route way for handwriting. The outcomes for year groups directly correlate with National Curriculum and RWInc handwriting expectations. These expectations are to be modelled and encouraged at all times.

When writing children should always be encouraged to show the following

- feet flat on the floor
- bottom at the back of the chair
- shoulders down and relaxed
- back leaning forward slightly
- left/right hand holding the page
- left/right hand ready in a tripod grip.



Handwriting and spelling lessons should build in key spelling patterns, common exception words and other key words needed for literacy or theme lessons.

Year group	Expectations (National Curriculum and RWInc)
Reception	<p>RWInc: 1a - Form all letters correctly, starting and finishing in the correct place and with the correct orientation. (This does not have to be with a fixed size or on a line). These are either taught as around letters, down letters, curly letters and zig zag letters or using curly caterpillars, long ladder letters, one armed robots and zig zag monsters. (Red to orange group RWInc)</p> <p>Letter formation is taught using pictures and mnemonics to support memory. Letter formation is modelled in sessions and then removed, children should complete independently before completing a tick and fix activity.</p> <p>ELGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hold a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing – using the tripod grip in almost all cases. - 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	<p>RWInc: 1b – children learn where to place letters on the line firstly using wide lines and then using the structure of sun, boat and water letters with the use of a mid line. They learn this using:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Single letters - Taught graphemes - Words - Red words (common exception words) <p>See year 1 handwriting long term plan for more information.</p>

	<p>Letter formation is modelled in sessions and then removed, children should complete independently before completing a tick and fix activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sit comfortably at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly. - 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 are formed in the same way (the families that they belong to) and practise these.
Year 2	<p>RWInc: Step 2 and 3 – children learn to join using ‘the arm join’ (diagonal join) and ‘the washing line join’ (horizontal join). (Blue RWInc and beyond) Letter formation is modelled in sessions and then removed, children should complete independently before completing a tick and fix activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure lower case letters are the correct size, relative to one another. - Write capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and lower case letters. - Use spacing that reflects the size of the letters. - Start using some diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters.
Year 3	<p>Using a cursive script</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use diagonal and horizontal strokes to join letters and develop an understanding of which letters are best left unjoined.
Year 4	<p>Using a cursive script</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use a consistent, joined handwriting style in which all letters are the same size and shape.
Year 5	<p>Using a cursive script</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Write neatly and legibly with joined letters.
Year 6	<p>Using a cursive script</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain legibility in joined handwriting when writing at speed.