

Excalibur Primary School

Handwriting Progression – Reception to Year 6

Reception

- Use large-muscle movements to wave flags and streamers, paint and make marks.
- Use one-handed tools and equipment, for example, making snips in paper with scissors.
- Use a comfortable grip with good control when holding pens and pencils.
- Shows a preference for a dominant hand.
- Write some letters accurately.
- Develop their small motor skills so that they can use a range of tools competently, safely and confidently. Suggested tools: pencils for drawing and writing, paintbrushes, scissors, knives, forks and spoons.
- Use their core muscle strength to achieve a good posture when sitting at a table or sitting on the floor.
- Develop the foundations of a handwriting style which is fast, accurate and efficient.

Year 1

- To write lower case and capital letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place with a good level of consistency.
- To sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly.
- To form digits 0-9.
- To understand which letters belong to which handwriting 'families' (i.e. letters that are formed in similar ways) and to practise these.

Year 2

- To write capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower case letters.
- To form lower case letters of the correct size, relative to one another.
- To use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters
- To begin to use the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters.

Year 3

- To use a neat, joined handwriting style with increasing accuracy and speed.
- To continue to use the diagonal and horizontal strokes that are needed to join letters and to understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined.

Year 4

- To increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting [e.g. by ensuring that the downstrokes of letters are parallel and equidistant; that lines of writing are spaced sufficiently so that the ascenders and descenders of letters do not touch].
- To confidently use diagonal and horizontal joining strokes throughout their independent writing to increase fluency.

Year 5

- To increase the speed of their handwriting so that problems with forming letters do not get in the way of writing down what they want to say.
- To be clear about what standard of handwriting is appropriate for a particular task, e.g. quick notes or a final handwritten version.
- To confidently use diagonal and horizontal joining strokes throughout their independent writing in a legible, fluent and speedy way.

Year 6

- 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.
- To recognise when to use an unjoined style (e.g. for labelling a diagram or data, writing an email address or for algebra) and capital letters (e.g. for filling in a form).