



Downlands Community School

Handwriting Policy

November 2025

Mission Statement

We aim to encourage the progression and development of each child's handwriting throughout their time at school into a fluent, legible and individual style that can be adapted for a range of purposes and will support their spelling and composition.

Intent

The programme of study at Downlands Community School seeks to ensure that by the end of KS1, children can write cursively.

In the EYFS, children are taught to use their phonic knowledge to write words in ways which match their spoken sounds, as well as being able to write some common words with irregular spellings. Planned opportunities are provided for children to develop their writing of simple sentences, which can be read by themselves and others. Children develop the use of effective pencil grip and correct letter formation (with certain letters having a lead out) throughout their time in reception.

In KS1, handwriting practice focuses on ensuring that children form lower-case letters of the correct size relative to one another. It develops the use of the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters and promotes understanding of which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined. Children also develop accuracy in writing capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and in writing lowercase letters, using spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters. As soon as possible, children are taught to write with a cursive style as soon as they can form letters securely with the correct orientation.

Throughout KS2, emphasis is placed on children's development of cursive writing legibly, fluently and with increasing speed. They continue to practise within all of their writing lessons and when children can produce high-quality cursive writing, they may be given a handwriting pen to complete written work with.

Inclusion

Handwriting is explicitly taught throughout the school and supported with fine motor skill activities (Finger Gym and Dough Disco) in FS1, FS2. Key Stage 1 pupils have support within the class and as an intervention in Key Stage 2.

Children who struggle to have acceptable pencil control or cursive handwriting styles will receive interventions or suitable reasonable adjustments to help support their development. These may be:

- Finger Gym
- Dough Disco
- Learn to move
- Fine motor Activities
- Small Group Extra Cursive lessons
- Pencil grips
- Handwriting prompt sheets
- Use of a laptop or ipad (Only for those children identified as having a significant learning need)

Letter Formation

EYFS use the Squiggle Me Into A Writer Programme, which uses gross motor movements and repetitive practice to help form letters correctly. Key Stage One and Key Stage Two then progress to use the Twinkl cursive handwriting style (see below). This ensures that there is a continuity of handwriting style from the Early Years Foundation Stage through to the end of Key Stage 2. It enables them to develop a neat style with the added benefit of encouraging accurate spelling.

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