

## Handwriting Policy for Hampton Primary school.

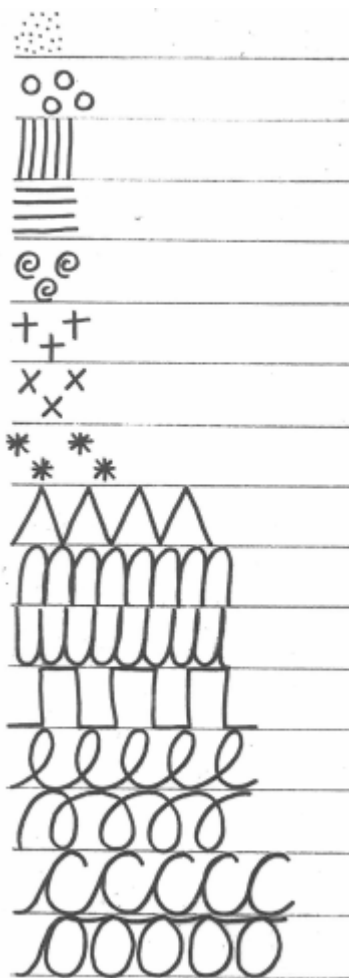
At Hampton children will be learning cursive handwriting. Therefore all children must practise cursive handwriting from the outset. The word cursive comes from the Latin “cursivus” which means flowing. Cursive handwriting helps children to gain the flow that writing requires.

Handwriting that is modelled should always be in line with the schools cursive handwriting policy. When writing, if necessary children should have a sound mat to refer to that relates directly to our handwriting scheme of work. The correct pencil grip should be encouraged and corrected as soon as possible.

### Key Stage 1 and Foundation Stage

When children start in Foundation Stage handwriting patterns are taught during the first term. Learning pre-handwriting patterns is the important first step in handwriting, with children learning the shapes and strokes needed to correctly form letters.

Pre-handwriting patterns are taught in the following order;



From term 2 onwards letters are taught each week and are taught in letter families. In Foundation Stage one letter is taught per week. Letter formation should be taught in the following order;

“Long ladder letters” – l, t, i, u, y, j

“Curly caterpillars” – c, a, d, g, q, o

“One armed robots” – n, m, h, r, b, p, k

“Zigzag monsters” – v, w, x, z

“Curly caterpillars” – e, f, s

We encourage all of our children to hold their pencil with “crocodile fingers” to ensure they have the correct pencil grip to aid their writing.

### **How to hold your pencil correctly using crocodile fingers**

Open your hand as though it’s a crocodile opening his mouth.



Place the pencil on the bottom jaw of the crocodile, and close the crocodile’s mouth on the pencil.



As the crocodile eats the pencil, he doesn’t like the taste of the pencil, so he puckers his lips. (Show your children what it means to pucker your lips!)



Children can practise letter formation through; sand trays, shaving foam, crayons or paint on large paper, whiteboards, interactive

white boards, chalks, ribbons, cottons buds and paint etc as well as completing handwriting sheets and work in handwriting books where appropriate. Handwriting practise should be daily and will take place in different ways across the year groups.

### **Foundation stage**

In Foundation stage we teach a letter a week for 20 minutes per day. We begin a handwriting session with a whole class input on the carpet where the teacher will introduce and teach the new letter. Children will practise writing the letter in the air, on the carpet, on the palm of their hands or on their partners back. After that, the children will be sent to an activity with a small group. This could be writing letters in sand trays, water, whiteboards, rainbow letters, outside with chalks or ribbons etc. One group will always be sat with the teacher writing the letter more formally either on a handwriting sheet or in a handwriting book. The groups of children rotate each day so they all have a turn at each activity.

By the end of Foundation Stage it is hoped that all children can form all individual letters in unjoined cursive handwriting, write their first name and begin to write other simple words in unjoined cursive handwriting with the correct pencil grip.

### **Year One**

In Year One it is hoped that the children are confident in forming most letters correctly, so to begin with children are introduced to three letters at a time from each letter family per week. Much like Foundation Stage the children rotate daily around a carousel of handwriting or fine motor skills activities and have one group per day doing a focussed handwriting activity in their handwriting books. Throughout Year One, children practise joining letters within each family to build words.

By the end of Year One it is hoped that all children can form all individual letters in unjoined cursive handwriting with letters sitting on the line and showing consistencies in height ready to begin joining letters. It is hoped that all children can write their first and second name in joined cursive handwriting with correct pencil grip. If children are ready, joining of letters will be encouraged in Year One.

### **Write Dance**

Write Dance relates directly to cursive handwriting. It is an approach and method that provides movement opportunities as children can develop the physical skills needed to develop their handwriting skills. The movement is driven by the music and the underlying principle is enjoyment to build confidence. When using crayons in write dance, these should be small pieces to force the pincer grip. Write dance should take place once a week in Foundation Stage both in the classroom or the hall and at the beginning of each letter family in Year One.

### **Year Two**

Year two focus on the formation of letters by writing words during handwriting practice; these can be nonsense or real words using the letters already taught. They will also focus on writing tricky words and high frequency words using cursive handwriting. Interventions are put in place for children that require extra support with letter formation.

By the end of year two it is hoped that all children can form all individual letters in cursive handwriting with letters sitting on the line and showing consistencies in height. It is hoped that all children can write their first and second name in joined cursive handwriting with correct pencil grip. It is hoped that all children will be joining writing consistently.

### **Key Stage Two**

Key Stage Two continue to have support in their handwriting if needed. This is taught through phonics or intervention groups.

### **Main teaching points to consider when teaching handwriting**

Children must hold their pencil or pen with the correct grip, all letters start on the line and all letters sit on the line.

Resources:

<http://www.ictgames.com/writingRepeater/index.html> is a fantastic teaching resource as you are able to programme in the letter being formed and play it back to the class. The children can also model how to form the letters too.

[www.sparklebox.co.uk](http://www.sparklebox.co.uk) has lots of handwriting worksheets, mats and handwriting frames in line with the schools policy. You can access this at home, save onto a memory stick and then print at school.

[www.twinkl.co.uk](http://www.twinkl.co.uk) some free handwriting resources.

[www.senteacher.org](http://www.senteacher.org) is a great website for handwriting patterns.

[http://www.anythinglefthanded.co.uk/library/ALH\\_handwritingfactsheet.pdf](http://www.anythinglefthanded.co.uk/library/ALH_handwritingfactsheet.pdf) has advice for left-handers.

<http://www.letterjoin.co.uk/> an online resource that we are subscribed to. Make sure you select the correct f,w,x,z.