



Handwriting at Kents Hill School

We ensure that our children follow the requirements and recommendations of the National Curriculum. We share the aspirations that children's handwriting should be 'sufficiently fluent and effortless for them to manage the general demands of the curriculum' and that 'problems with forming letters do not get in the way of their writing down what they want to say'.

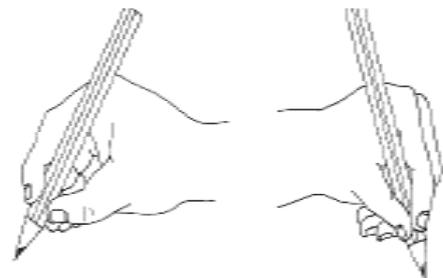
We use the PenPals Handwriting Scheme to support us in our teaching. Penpals enables us to teach and secure the development of handwriting throughout the school:

- ✎ First, children experience the foundation of handwriting through multi-sensory activities (Nursery and Reception)
- ✎ Correct letter formation is taught, practised, applied and consolidated (Nursery/Reception/Y1)
- ✎ Joining is introduced only after correct letter formation is used automatically (Y1/Y2).
- ✎ Joins are introduced systematically and cumulatively (Y1/Y2)
- ✎ As children practice joining, they pay attention to the size, proportion and spacing of their letters and words (Y2)

Throughout their time in school, children use a range of tools for different purposes and styles of handwriting including:

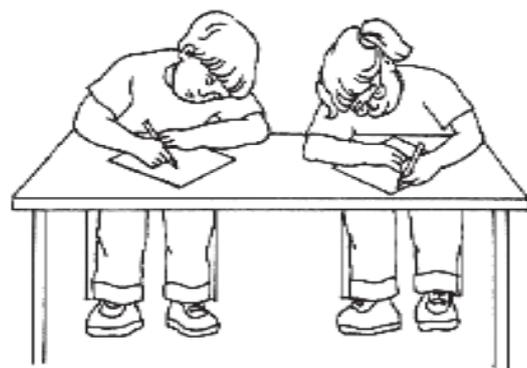
- ✎ A wide range of tools and media for mark-making in the EYFS.
- ✎ Whiteboard pens throughout the school.
- ✎ Fingers when writing on the interactive whiteboard.
- ✎ Art supplies including coloured pens and pencils for posters, displays and artwork.
- ✎ Sharp pencils for writing

Handwriting is always introduced and practised in the Penpals Practice Books and on lined paper so that children quickly learn about letter orientation including ascenders and descenders. As children's fine motor skills improve and their letter formation or joining becomes increasingly accurate, the width between the lines they write on gradually decreases.



General Principles

- ✎ All children are taught the correct pencil hold, whether they are right- or left-handed (see Appendix 1)
- ✎ All children are taught the correct posture to promote good handwriting (see Appendix 2)



Year Group Expectations

All children learn at different rates.

The following is a general guide. We recognise that some children will not be able to achieve the year group expectations for their year group, whilst others may be able to move more quickly through the programme.

By the end of **Nursery**, most children will have:

- ✎ developed gross and fine motor skills; (see Appendix 1)
- ✎ practised pattern making, which supports their ability to learn to write letters;
- ✎ learned to recognise the letters in their name. Some children will have learned to form those letters correctly.

By the end of **Reception**, most children will have:

- ✎ practised specific patterns;
<http://www.teachhandwriting.co.uk/pre-handwriting-patterns.html>
- ✎ learned and practised the correct formation of all lower case letters;
- ✎ learned to write their name fluently, using correct formation.

By the end of **Year 1**, most children will have:

- ✎ reviewed all lower case letters;
- ✎ practised writing 'special friends' together (not joined), e.g. ck, qu, ff,ss,ai, igh, ee, oa, oo
- ✎ learned correct formation of capital letters
- ✎ learned correct formation of digits 0 – 9
- ✎ begun to learn the following joins: **ch, ai, wh, ow**



By the end of **Year 2**, most children will have:

- ✎ practised writing capitals;
- ✎ practised writing digits 1 – 100;
- ✎ learned the following diagonal and horizontal joins: **th, ch, ai, ay, ir, er, wh, oh, ow, ou, ie, ue, oe, ve, ee, le, ea, igh, dg, ng, oo, oa, wa, wo, air, ear, oor, our, ing, ck, al, el, at, il, ill, ui, ey, aw, ur, an ip, ok, ot, ob, ol, oi, oy, on, op, or, ed, cc, eg, ic, ad, ug, dd, ag, oc, og, od, va, vo, as, is, os, ws, ns, ds, ls, ts, ks.**

The following website has links to show some of the joins and useful links to other handwriting information. However, please note that we

teach the joins as they are shown on this document and not with curled 'y's and 'g's.

<http://www.teachhandwriting.co.uk/handwriting-cursive-letter-joins.html>