

Thomas Jones School

Handwriting Policy

Aims

Our aims for the teaching of handwriting are to ensure that:

- All pupils develop a fluent, legible and joined handwriting style that enables them to write with confidence, accuracy and increasing speed.
- Handwriting is taught through a clear, progressive and consistent approach across the school.
- All staff follow a shared framework for the teaching of handwriting, ensuring continuity and high expectations in every year group.
- Handwriting lessons are planned and delivered effectively to support the needs and progress of all pupils.
- Pupils understand the importance of neat, well-presented learning and take pride in the presentation of their written pieces.
- Pupils develop good posture, pencil grip and letter formation habits that support effective handwriting and overall writing development.

Handwriting Style

At our school, we have adopted a consistent cursive handwriting style that enables pupils to develop correctly formed and accurately orientated letters from the earliest stages of learning. As pupils progress, they are supported to develop a fluent, joined handwriting style that is legible, efficient and can be adapted appropriately for a range of writing tasks and purposes.

Handwriting is taught using the Nelson Handwriting programme and accompanying resources. This provides a clear, progressive sequence of learning, ensuring that letter formation, joins, spacing and presentation skills are taught systematically and consistently across all year groups. The programme supports pupils in developing the automaticity and fluency needed for effective written communication.

Teaching and Organisation

To support the development of fluent and legible handwriting, pupils will be taught:

- The correct seated posture to promote comfort, stability and effective handwriting, with specific guidance and adaptations for left-handed pupils where appropriate.
- The correct positioning of paper to support efficient letter formation and writing flow.
- An effective tripod pencil grip to encourage control, accuracy and endurance when writing.

- Explicit handwriting lessons at least **three times per week**, alongside regular opportunities to apply handwriting skills across the wider curriculum.
- Consistent letter formation, joins, spacing and presentation through modelling, guided practice and independent application.
- Parents and carers will be provided with examples of the school's adopted handwriting script to support consistent practice at home.
- A range of pencils and pencil grips will be available for pupils who require additional support to develop a comfortable and effective writing grip.

Progression

Year Group	Nelson Thorne Materials
Nursery	To use a variety of media (sand, paint brushes, crayons etc) to develop the gross and finer motor controls necessary for pre writing skills. To develop basic movements for letter formation.
Reception	Blue Level Workbook 1-3
Year 1	Blue Level Workbook 4 Red Level
Year 2	Yellow Level
Year 3	Developing Skills Book 2 Blue
Year 4	Developing Skills Book 3 Green
Year 5	Developing Skills Book 4 Orange
Year 6	Handwriting Skills Workbook

Assessment

Handwriting is assessed continuously rather than through formal standalone tests. Teachers maintain high expectations for handwriting and presentation, providing regular guidance, support, and intervention where needed to ensure pupils make sustained progress throughout the year.

Assessment is ongoing and embedded within everyday teaching. During each lesson, teachers monitor pupils' handwriting through observation, discussion, and evaluation of their written work. This formative assessment enables teachers to identify strengths, address misconceptions, and adapt teaching to meet individual needs while ensuring pupils have understood and applied the key learning objectives.

Where statutory end of key stage writing assessments take place, handwriting will be considered as part of the overall writing assessment in accordance with national assessment requirements.

Teachers are expected to maintain consistently high standards of handwriting and presentation across all areas of the curriculum. Pupils are encouraged to apply the handwriting skills they have been taught in every subject, ensuring that neat, legible, and fluent handwriting becomes an integral part of all written work.