

St. Mary's C of E Primary School
Handwriting Expectations and Progression Outline
September 2013



This year we will be raising our expectations regarding good presentation in children's work across the curriculum. One of the ways which we will do this is by encouraging the development of good handwriting skills through the teaching of a cursive script, so that children can develop a fluent style as they progress through the school. Our aim is that the children will be able to write clearly, fluently and quickly so that they can cope with everyday demands of life and school. There will be a progression of skills/standards expected which will be dependent on a child's age/development. Parents/carers who would like to support this approach at home are requested to check with their child's class teacher to see what stage their child is at so that continuity between home and school can be achieved.

Year Group	Expectation Guidance (based on EYFS and National Curriculum 2014)
Reception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher modelling of letter formation, letter formation through exploratory play, comfortable and efficient pencil grip, writing words on lines • begin to form lower-case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place with the lead in entry stroke
Year 1	Pupils should be taught to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly • form lower-case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place with the lead in entry stroke • form capital letters and digits 0-9 correctly • understand which letters belong to which handwriting 'families' and practise these.
Year 2	Pupils should be taught to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • form lower-case letters of the correct size relative to one another • start joining letters as soon as they can form letters consistently • use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters
Year 3	Pupils should be taught to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use a fluent, joined cursive script • increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting • use a joined script throughout their independent writing
Year 4	Pupils should be taught to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use a fluent, joined cursive script • increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting • use a joined script throughout their independent writing • pen licence awarded where well formed, joined and consistent handwriting is apparent.

Year Group	Expectation Guidance (based on EYFS and National Curriculum 2014)
Year 5	Pupils should be taught to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • write legibly, fluently and with increasing speed • pen licence awarded where well formed, joined and consistent handwriting is apparent.
Year 6	Pupils should be taught to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • write legibly, fluently and with increasing speed • choose the handwriting to fit the purpose e.g quick notes or letters • pen licence awarded where well formed, joined and consistent handwriting is apparent.

An example of the script we teach in school can be found below:



The rules of the Cursive Style helps:

- to minimise confusion for the child as every letter starts on the line with an entry stroke and leads out with an exit stroke
- with the flow of writing as letters naturally flow into each other; it is impossible to write separate letters without joining
- form spacing between words as the child develops whole word awareness
- develop a child's visual memory
- all children's writing skills regardless of academic ability
- to develop skills of punctuation and grammar

All children **must** initially write with a pencil, with older pupils moving on to pen when they gain their 'pen licence' for sustained and consistent handwriting formation.

Please note: joining from the descenders of the f and q may be particularly problematic for some children. If this is the case, please personalise the expectation and allow the q to remain unjoined and the f to be written without the loops.