



How We Teach Handwriting

Intent

At Belswains, we encourage the progression and development of handwriting throughout the school. We know that the quality of handwriting can impact upon a child's written communication and therefore, strive to ensure that each child has a style of handwriting that is both fluent and legible. We aim to ensure that our children are secure in their knowledge of letter formation and write legibly so that their sole focus can then be on the content of their writing. We ensure that the skills of handwriting are taught regularly and consistently across the school.

Implementation

EYFS:

Activities will be provided in order to improve children's gross motor skills. These will include the use of large equipment such as chinks, paint brushes, finger paint, shaving foam etc. Activities will be planned in order to improve children's fine motor skills and they will be given various opportunities to take part in mark making activities using pencils, pens and crayons. Children will begin learning how to form letters that are not joined through the Read Write Inc Phonics scheme using the RWI guidance on letter formation. This will be taught during phonics sessions and through teacher led activities throughout the day. Children will be taught the RWI mnemonic in order to help them to remember how to form letters correctly. Our aim is that by the end of the Foundation Stage, all children will be able to grip a pencil correctly and accurately form all letters and numbers. Inaccuracies in pencil grip will be immediately addressed.

Key Stage 1:

In Key Stage, children will continue to practise their letter formation during daily phonics sessions. They will be encouraged to use the RWI mnemonic in order to help them to remember how to form letters correctly. When a child is able to form all letters correctly, they will be taught how to join.

During the Autumn Term children will receive an hour of handwriting practise a week. This is sometimes broken down into smaller chunks of time. Handwriting tasks are sometimes given for homework. In Key Stage 1, children only use a pencil for writing.

Key Stage 2

In Key Stage 2, the children will continue to learn how to form letters and practise their handwriting in discrete handwriting lessons. They will receive two or three handwriting sessions a week dependant on the needs of the class. Handwriting will be taught using Nelsons scheme of work on the Oxford Owl online subscription. A new unit will be taught and practised each week. In Years 3 and 4, children will complete their handwriting either in their handwriting books or on the worksheet and these will be kept in handwriting folders. In Year 5 and 6, children will copy their handwriting into a handwriting book.

Children will write using a HB pencil until they reach Year 3. Once children have reached Year 3 and their teacher feels they are ready, they will be given a handwriting pen. Regardless of the standard of their writing, all children will be using a handwriting pen by the end of the Autumn Term in Year 5. If a situation arises where a child would prefer to use pencil, individual cases can be considered at the discretion of the teacher and subject leader. Children should be using a blue school handwriting pen. Pens can be brought in from home but need to be checked for suitability by an adult working in that class. No biros are permitted. Triangular support pens will be given to those children that need extra support with their handwriting. This is at the discretion of the class teacher.

Children can be given a pen when:

- Their letters are accurately formed and even in size.
- Their words are spaced evenly and written on the line of their book.
- They are joining their letters consistently.
- Their ascenders and descenders are well distinguished.
- Their writing is legible.

Posture

Children will be taught the importance of sitting at a table with their feet on the floor making sure that they are in the upright position.

Pupils will be reminded to write from left to right in their exercise books, starting at the margin. They will be reminded to write on the lines of their books using the correct letter size and formation. Teachers will encourage children to leave the correct amount of space between each word.

Teacher Handwriting

At all times, teachers will ensure that they model good examples for handwriting both when marking in books and when writing on the board. Teachers will ensure that they write on the lines of exercise books and model letter sizing and spacing to the children.