

## Information about the handwriting

Handwriting is a fundamental skill that supports a child's ability to record their thoughts and ideas efficiently and legibly. In Primary Education, particularly in the early years (Key Stage 1), developing good handwriting habits not only aids academic progress but also enhances self-esteem and confidence in young learners. A well-structured approach to handwriting is essential, and at our school, we integrate this with our Bug Club Phonics programme.

Cursive handwriting, which involves teaching children to lead in and out of letters with entry and exit strokes, serves as a vital precursor to fully joined handwriting. There are several reasons for incorporating this method at KS1:

1. **Consistency with Phonics Instruction:** Bug Club Phonics focuses on recognising and reading sounds, including digraphs (two letters making one sound) and trigraphs (three letters making one sound). By learning to join letters in digraphs and trigraphs as part of handwriting practice, children can better identify these sound units, thus improving their phonemic awareness and reading fluency.
2. **Smooth Transition to Joined Handwriting:** Teaching pre-cursive handwriting lays the groundwork for children to transition seamlessly to joining letters in cursive writing. This early practice ensures that students are familiar with the concept of connected letters, reducing the cognitive load when they later move on to more complex writing tasks.
3. **Enhanced Motor Skills Development:** The fluid movements involved in pre-cursive handwriting help develop fine motor skills. The act of leading in and out of letters requires controlled and precise movements, which strengthen hand muscles and improve overall dexterity. Another advantage of cursive style is being able to quickly identify when a child is forming a letter incorrectly.
5. **Cognitive and Academic Benefits:** Developing good handwriting habits in KS1 supports cognitive development. The process of writing involves multiple areas of the brain, enhancing memory retention and information processing. Clear and efficient handwriting also allows children to focus more on the content of their work rather than the act of writing itself.

### Implementation:

- **Consistent Practice:** Regular, short handwriting sessions are integrated into the daily timetable to ensure consistent practice.
- **Supported Learning:** Teachers provide guided support and use visual aids to help children understand the entry and exit strokes for each letter.
- **Positive Reinforcement:** Encouragement and positive feedback are vital to motivate children and build confidence in their handwriting skills.
- **Integration with Phonics:** Activities are designed to align with phonics lessons, reinforcing the connection between handwriting and sound recognition. We have adapted the Bug Club resources to a pre-cursive format. This adaptation aligns with our handwriting policy and will help to familiarise the children with this writing style. Additionally, it will serve as effective support and modelling for their handwriting development.

By embedding pre-cursive handwriting in our KS1 curriculum, we equip our students with the essential skills needed for their academic journey. This approach, in harmony with Bug Club Phonics, ensures a holistic development of their literacy capabilities.