

Handwriting progression

The National Curriculum for English (2014) defines the **two dimensions** of the writing process as:

- **transcription** (spelling and handwriting)
- **composition** (articulating ideas and structuring them in speech and writing)

It requires that teaching develops pupils' competence in both dimensions.

'Writing also depends on fluent, legible and, eventually, speedy handwriting.'

Aims

As a school our aims in teaching handwriting are that the pupils will:

- Experience coherence and continuity in learning and teaching across our school
- Understand the importance of clear and neat presentation in order to communicate meaning clearly
- Take pride in the presentation of their work and therefore study handwriting with a sense of enjoyment and achievement
- Be supported in developing correct spelling quickly through a multi-sensory approach to handwriting
- Be able to write quickly to aid expressing themselves creatively and imaginatively across the curriculum and for a range of purposes
- Use their skills with confidence in real life situations.
- Be able to develop a fluent, joined handwriting style by the end of Year Two (most children)

Continuous Cursive Handwriting

Continuous cursive handwriting is formed without taking the pencil off the paper – and consequently, each word is formed in one flowing movement. We have chosen to teach cursive handwriting because cursive...

- Helps prevent reversals and confusion of letters including lower and upper case.
- Enhances spelling ability through the movement of the hand, developing a 'physical memory' of letters and words.
- Develops visual, spacial and co-ordination skills through fluent movement.
- Improves reading skills through the reading of whole words as opposed to just one letter at a time.
- Encourages children to use spaces accurately in their writing.
- Enables children to write more quickly.

EYFS	<p>Pupils will be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop their fine motor skills and tripod pencil grip.• Sit correctly at the table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly.• Produce a straight controlled line which supports letter formation• Develop an anti-clockwise movement.• Write the letters a – z and digits 0-9, when ready to do so.• Write letters using the correct sequence of movements.• Practise their handwriting skills.	
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Year 1	<p>Pupils will be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sit correctly at the table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly • Form letters using the correct pre cursive script • Form capital letters • Form digits 0-9 • To practise handwriting in conjunction with phonic and spelling patterns. • To practise writing on lines with ascenders and descenders correctly placed. 	<p>Handwriting requires frequent and discrete direct teaching. Pupils should be able to form letters correctly and confidently. The size of the pencil should not be too large for a young child's hand. Whatever is being used should allow the child to hold it easily and correctly so that bad habits are avoided.</p>
Year 2	<p>Pupils will be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form lower case letters of the correct size relative to one another using pre cursive and cursive script • Use the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters. • Write capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower case letters • Use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters. • To practise handwriting in conjunction with phonic and spelling patterns. • To practise writing on lines with ascenders and descenders correctly placed 	<p>Pupils should revise and practise correct letter formation frequently. They should be taught to write with a joined style as soon as they can form letters securely with the correct orientation.</p>

Handwriting is taught at least three times a week at Imperial Avenue Infant School in Key Stage one. It is taught as a whole class lesson with children. Children work in their handwriting books and children who require further practice will be given individual adult support, as well as time to practise e.g. this could be incorporated into daily Literacy lessons and independent activities during guided reading times.

When writing for children, for example in modelled writing and marking, staff will use the agreed cursive script which is appropriate for each year group.

Children are taught good posture and correct grip work alongside the script and regular checks are made during writing activities to ensure children maintain this.

Children are taught pre cursive writing in the foundation stage. At Imperial in Key Stage 1 we aim for most children in year 1 to be able to write using lead in and lead outstroke's often referred to as flick and tick but not joining, ready for this to be taught in year 2. Letters are taught in a set order.

Year 1 teaching sequence for flicks and ticks –

Set 1 – i, l, t

Set 2 – u, v, w

Set 3 – y, j

Set 4 – r, m, n, h

Set 5 – k, b, p

Set 6 – e, f, s

Set 7 – c, a, o, d, g, q

Set 8 – x, z

Getting ready to write

Seating and posture

- Chair and table should be at a comfortable height
- The table should support the forearm so that it rests lightly on the surface and is parallel to the floor
- Encourage children to sit up straight and not slouch
- The height of the chair should be such that the thighs are horizontal and feet flat on the floor
- Tables should be free of clutter
- Rooms should be well lit
- Left handed pupils should sit on the left of their partners

Pencil grip

- Children should write with a pencil (or pen when introduced) with a rounded nib. Pencils should be reasonably sharp
- A tripod grip is the most efficient way of holding a pencil

For right handed children

- Hold lightly between the thumb and forefinger about 3cm away from the point
- The paper should be placed to the right tilted slightly to the left
- Use the left hand to steady the paper

For left handed children

- Hold lightly between thumb and forefinger resting on the first knuckle of the middle finger
- Hold about 3cm from the tip
- The hand should be kept below the writing line
- The paper should be tilted slightly to the right at about 20 - 30°
- Use the right hand to steady the paper