



Handwriting Policy

December 2022

Review: December 2025

Little Melton Primary School Handwriting Policy

STATEMENT OF BELIEF.

At Little Melton Primary School we recognise that handwriting is an important skill and children's ability to write fluently for the rest of their lives depends on a good foundation of taught handwriting in the early years of their education.

We believe that children should be introduced as early as possible to the making of letters through pattern and then discover letter shapes and movements in these forms. The shapes and movements should then be developed into making letters in connected forms.

Aims

We want our children to develop a legible style of handwriting that is based on sound letter formation. We want their skills in handwriting to be reflected in the presentation of their work and their joy of writing.

Objectives.

To achieve our aims we will give our children opportunities to develop their handwriting through phonic teaching linked to 'Little Wandle for Phonics' (see English policy) and by monitoring and assessing handwriting as part of the marking process. We will also ensure correct letter formation is taught for both left and right handed children.

In the Foundation Stage, children need to start with large-scale motor movements. Handwriting is then taught alongside phonics making use of the kinaesthetic learning to help children to internalise the letter shapes that go with the sounds. Sky-writing and other large-scale practice is best to start with and then children begin writing on whiteboards.

Overall handwriting skill and development.

Foundation Stage

- Provide gross motor and fine motor activities, which support development of muscle strength in arms and hands and consequently small movement and pencil control/grip.
- Use a multi-sensory resources such as tactile letters, squashy letters, sandpaper letters, chalks, paints, water and sand
- Use of sky writing and large-scale practise, indoors and outdoors
- Promote correct writing position and posture at a table, but also opportunities to write whilst children are laying down or sitting to support sensory feedback
- Use a range of writing implements to give children a variety of resources to draw and write, such as felt tip pens, wax crayons, gel pens, chalks etc. This supports children with developing the appropriate amount of pressure to the paper.
- Tracing over and copying letters

- Teaching of correct letter formation during phonics lessons

Key Stage 1

Children follow the Nelson handwriting scheme. There is daily practice in both Year 1 and Year 2 classes.

The aims are:

- To form lower case letters correctly in a script that will be easy to join.
- To practise handwriting in conjunction with phonics, spelling and independent writing, ensuring correct letter orientation, formation and proportion, in a style that makes letters easy to join.
- To begin to develop joined handwriting by the end of Year 2 for most children.

Key Stage 2

Throughout Key Stage 2 children will systematically be taught to join their writing. The children follow the Nelson scheme, augmented by CGP resources. They will be taught in small groups and whole class settings. Booster groups will be organised to support children who are struggling to make progress. In year 5/6 there is a timetabled session each week for focused work. There are regular assessments of handwriting, for example by reproducing a termly piece in Barn Owls, to inform booster groups.

The aims are:

- To use joined handwriting for all writing except where other special forms are required.
- To ensure consistency in size and proportion of letters and spacing between letters and words.
- To build up handwriting speed, fluency and legibility through practice.

Pens

During Lower Key Stage 2, children will be given the opportunity to work with a handwriting pen when they have shown a good level of competency with joining their writing. They will be presented with a pen to use in their writing. All year 5/6 children will use either a handwriting or fountain pen for writing. Both blue and black ink will be permitted.

Monitoring and Assessment

Assessment of handwriting will be ongoing. Work completed in each handwriting session will be monitored and verbal next steps given. Handwriting will also be assessed through other forms of written work and similarly next steps will be given.

Celebration

Good examples of handwriting will be celebrated as a school, both on display and on our school website.

Information for Parents

There is a detailed section for parents on the school website with examples of progression and expectations at different stages of the school at:

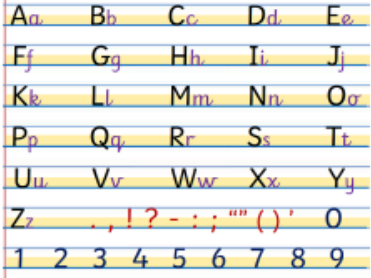
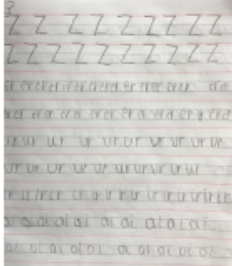


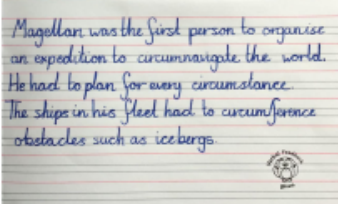
<http://www.littlemeltonprimaryschool.co.uk/curriculum/english-phonics/>

A copy is also reproduced below:



Handwriting at Little Melton Primary School- a quick guide for parents

- We follow the Nelson scheme for handwriting, supported by CGP resources.

<p>Nelson:</p> <p>The Alphabet & Numbers</p> 	<p>LMPS example:</p> <p>Key Stage 1 Letter Formation</p>  <p>Year 2, November 2021</p>
<p>The 4 Types of Join:</p> <p>The Four Joins</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to letters without ascenders 2. to letters with ascenders 3. horizontal joins 4. horizontal joins to letters with ascenders <p><i>abcdefghijklmnopqrstuwx yz</i></p> <p>The break letters (letters that aren't joined from) are: b g j p q x y z s</p>	<p>Key Stage 2 Cursive (Developing Joined):</p>  <p>Year 4, November 2021</p>
<p>Examples of Joined Words:</p> 	<p>Key Stage 2 Cursive (Fully Joined):</p>  <p>Year 6, November 2021</p>