

St. John's C.E. Primary School



St. John's Vision statement

Shine like stars

Through God's love, we will flourish and develop our gifts in our nurturing community, as we strive to be an inspiration to all.

Your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven.' Matthew 5:16

Policy: Handwriting policy

Reviewed: July 2026

Future Review: July 2027

Handwriting underpins effective written communication across the curriculum. Pupils are taught to write with ease, speed, and legibility through a consistent approach to cursive handwriting. This enables fluent letter formation, allowing pupils to focus on the content and quality of their writing. Handwriting is taught regularly and systematically across the school.

From the EYFS, handwriting is prioritised to ensure children develop the foundations needed to become confident writers.

EYFS (3 - 5 years)

Spelling	Handwriting	VGP	Comp
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KS1 (5 - 7 years)

Spelling	Handwriting	VGP	Comp
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Lower KS2 (7 - 9 years)

Spelling	Handwriting	VGP	Comp
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Upper KS2 (9 - 11 years)

Spelling	HW	VGP	Comp
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At St. John's Primary School, our aims in teaching handwriting are:

- To enable children to write in a consistent, well-presented, and legible format.
- To have a consistent approach across Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and 2 when teaching handwriting.
- To ensure that from the Summer Term of Year 1 to the end of Year 6 children are using a cursive writing style.
- To make sure all children know the difference between lower- and upper-case letters.
- To ensure the skills taught at Key Stage 1 continue to develop throughout Key Stage 2.
- To adopt a consistent approach towards handwriting by all adults when writing in children's books, on the whiteboard or on displays / resources.

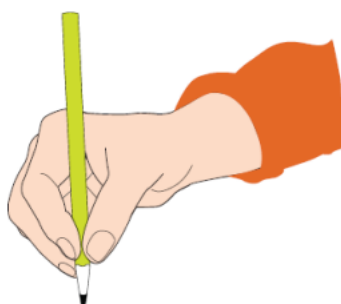
Children will be taught to:

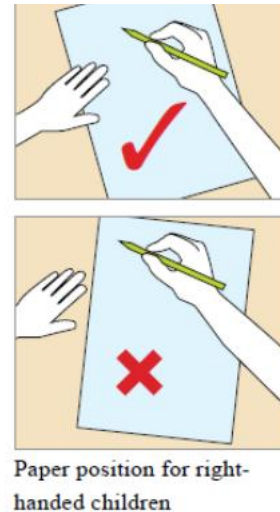
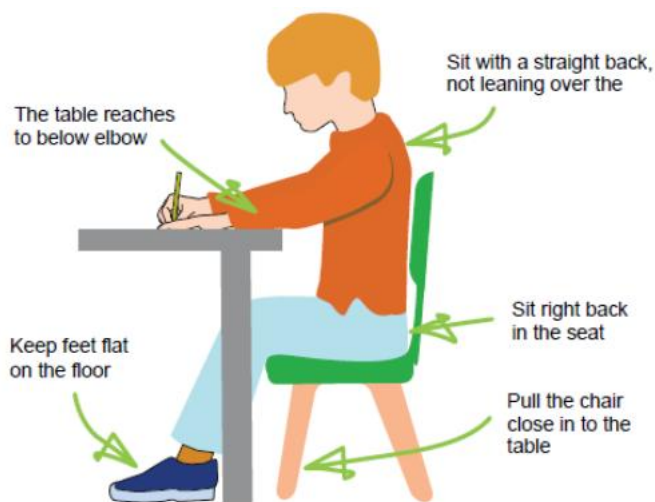
- hold a pencil correctly

Children should be encouraged to use a tripod pencil grip, where the pencil is gripped between the index finger and the thumb. The middle finger is then used to support the underside of the pencil as shown below.

- and adopt the correct posture when writing

Children should be encouraged to adopt the correct writing position as shown below.





(children who are left handed should reposition the paper the other way and sit to the left-hand side if seated next to a right-handed child)

- write from left to right and from top to bottom of the page
- start and finish letters correctly in a cursive style (from the Autumn Term of Year One onwards)
- form regularly sized and shaped letters
- use regular spacing between letters and words
- take a pride in their written work and the overall presentation.

The cursive script agreed at St John's is shown below:

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

To help deliver our handwriting curriculum we use letter-join.

In Foundation Stage and KS1, children will be encouraged to develop gross- motor control using large equipment for mark making such as big chalks, paint brushes, finger paints, shaving foam etc. They will develop their fine-motor skills and use a range of mark-making tools such as pencils, pens and crayons. They will be encouraged to talk about shapes and movement. As the children progress, they will be taught to form letters correctly starting using Read Write Inc's guidance on letter formation using the RWI mnemonics to aid the correct letter formation alongside their separate letter-join sessions.

Letter formation is taught alongside phonic development. Our aim is that by the end of the Foundation Stage all children hold a pencil correctly and form all letters and numbers correctly. Errors in pencil grip and letter formation will be immediately addressed, modelled, and corrected.

In Key Stage 1, all children should receive a daily handwriting session for 10 minutes (this may be as part of EMW, English or Phonics).

Handwriting can also be linked to phonic development with the introduction of new sounds written in a cursive style during RWI lessons. Our aim is that by the end of Year One children will be forming all letters correctly and joining in a cursive script.

In Year 2, adults will model cursive writing from the beginning of the year. The children will be encouraged to continue the development of basic joins which they should transfer into all their independent writing. They will also continue to link their handwriting to their phonic development as they learn to write new sounds using a cursive writing style. We aim for all children to use pen for writing by Year 2.

In Key Stage 2, children will consolidate their handwriting practice through English lessons and explicit teacher modelling. If any child is not on track with their handwriting and presentation, they will receive additional support through small group/individual intervention groups.

In Year 3, children will continue to develop their use of cursive handwriting building upon the skills they have developed in Key stage 1. In Years 4,5 and 6 children will be expected to use cursive handwriting in all areas of the curriculum. Those children whose writing is neat and legible may be encouraged to use handwriting pens. However, children will be offered a choice of writing equipment and will use what they feel best suited to.

Research demonstrates that:

- Handwriting can improve if structured, targeted handwriting intervention is provided.
- Handwriting intervention needs to be consistent, frequent and ongoing.
- Cognitive approaches can work for older children too.