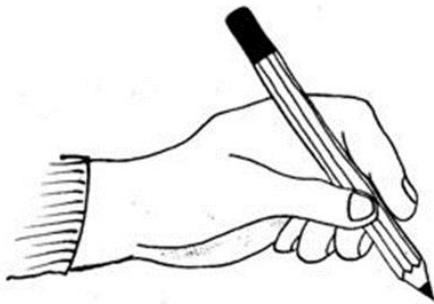


abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

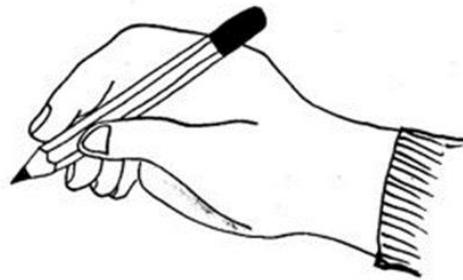
Handwriting at St Michael's C of E Primary School

By the time they leave St Michael's at the end of Year 6, all the children in the school should be able to write legibly, fluently and neatly with speed. The expectation is that their handwriting will be joined and that they will have developed their own distinct handwriting style.

To achieve this, the children are systematically taught cursive handwriting at least once a week, following the Nelson Handwriting Scheme, using the style of handwriting displayed at the top and bottom of these pages. Teaching of handwriting is closely linked to the teaching of phonics and spelling, starting in Reception and Year 1, where the teaching of correct letter formation is an integral part of daily phonics teaching. This is also where the children learn the essentials of correct pencil grip (tripod grip), seating and posture.



Left handed tripod grip



Right handed tripod grip

Are you sitting comfortably with both feet on the floor?



Are you sitting comfortably with both feet on the floor?



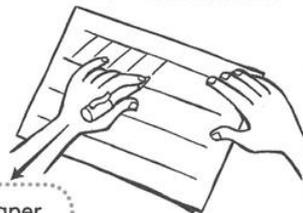
Are you holding your pencil correctly?



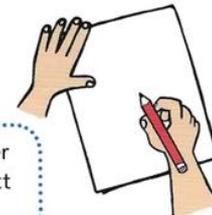
Are you holding your pencil correctly?



Is your paper at the correct angle?



Is your paper at the correct angle?



The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

In addition to weekly taught handwriting sessions, the children have regular opportunities to practise handwriting, including at the start of the school day. During lessons and for homework, the expectation is that their handwriting is well formed and joined (from Year 2) and their work is neatly presented across all curriculum areas. They are taught to adapt their handwriting to the requirements of the task, and, though it is important that their handwriting is legible and fluent, it does not always have to be utterly precise, 'best' handwriting. They will also use different tools for handwriting, including pens, ink, paint, chalk, crayons and, mostly, pencils.

Children are taught the language associated with handwriting, including the terms: clockwise, anticlockwise, vertical, horizontal, diagonal, parallel, ascender, descender, consonant, vowel, joined, slanted, x-height.



Reception and Year 1: Children are taught the formation of all lower-case and capital letters, how to start and finish them and the digits 0-9. Letters are sorted into families (see next page) that are formed in similar ways. Children start to learn to join letters half way through Year 1. In the early stages of learning letter formation and joins, correct movements are more important than the appearance of the writing - appearance will improve with practice.

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
1234567890

Year 2: Children continue to learn and practise the four types of horizontal and diagonal letter joins and which letters are best left un-joined. They focus on forming lower and upper case letters and digits of the correct size and orientation. Lower case letters are sorted into groups, which determine how they join to other letters (see next page).

Years 3 & 4: Children continue to improve the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting, including diagonal and horizontal joins and keeping ascenders and descenders in proportion. They are introduced to handwriting at a slant.

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Years 5 & 6: As well as continuing with structured practice of letter joins and consistency of size and spacing, children are encouraged to develop their own style of handwriting. They use handwriting in different contexts: informal, final presentation, posters, labelling diagrams etc. and consider where different styles and sizes of font and different writing implements are appropriate for particular writing tasks.

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Letter Families – Reception & Year 1	
Set 1	c o a d g f s q e
Set 2	i l t j u y
Set 3	b h k m n p r
Set 4	v w x z

Joining Groups		
1	Letters with exit flicks, plus s	a c d e h i k l m n s t u
2	Letters which start at the top of the x-height	a c d e g i j m n o p q r s u v w x y
3	Letters that start at the top of the ascender	b f h k l t
4	Letters that finish at the top of the x-height	f o r v w
Break letters	Letters after which no join is made	b g j p q x y z

The Joins		
First Join (Group 1 to Group 2)	Diagonal join from the end point of one letter to the start point of the next	in am
Second Join (Group 1 to Group 3)	Diagonal join meets the ascender half way up the letter and then continues to the top of the ascender	ab ch
Third Join (Group 4 to Group 2)	A horizontal join going from the x-height of one letter to the x-height of another.	oa wo
Fourth join (Group 4 to Group 3)	Diagonal join that goes from the x-height of one letter to the top of the ascender of the next.	wh ob
Break letters	Joins are never made after the letters in this group.	bigger

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.