



Walkeringham Primary School English Curriculum - Handwriting

Intent

At Walkeringham Primary School, with our children at its centre, we believe that neat, well-formed handwriting and presentation of written work helps to raise standards as pupils take pride in and have a sense of ownership of their work. We aim for all children to achieve a neat, legible style with correctly formed letters in the continuous cursive handwriting style. As they move through school, they develop flow and speed, so that eventually they are able to produce the letters automatically and in their independent writing.

Implementation

We have a consistent approach to handwriting across school, which enables children to develop their handwriting skills, which are progressive throughout school. Handwriting is taught, regularly and explicitly, in short, frequent sessions - a mixture of whole class, small group and individual teaching may be planned. As good handwriting relies on secure motor control and hand-eye coordination, children in the Nursery and Reception engage in activities requiring hand-eye coordination and develop their fine motor skills. Pupils are given the opportunity to experiment with a range of writing materials and implements; a multi-sensory approach is used to help pupils feel the movement in the hand.

In Early Years and Key Stage One handwriting is taught separately to phonics, but shared and guided writing and daily phonics lessons provide additional opportunities for the modelling and monitoring of handwriting. Where possible, handwriting is linked to phonic and spelling patterns, which helps with handwriting and with the 'muscle memory' of spellings. When ready, pupils begin practising on the lines they are going to use in their writing books. Staff model good handwriting at every opportunity and children take responsibility for the presentation of their own work. In Early Years and Year One, letter formation using 'formation phrases', which make a link between the mnemonic and the letter, are taught within the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised, spelling programme that we follow as a school. This involves them being taught to print initially, until Year 2.

In Year 2, children are taught to join their handwriting by starting each letter on the line in the continuous cursive style.

Pupils who need more support, for example, as a result of having specific needs due to being left-handed, may require additional provision. Appropriate handwriting models are on display in every classroom.

Impact

Children take responsibility for and pride in the presentation of their work and have a neat, legible style with correctly formed letters in the continuous cursive handwriting style by the time they reach Year 6. They can write fluently and at speed. They achieve the expected standard at the end of Reception, Year 2 and Year 6.