



## **Handwriting**

### **Why is neat handwriting important?**

Neat handwriting is important for children for several developmental, academic, and psychological reasons. Here's a breakdown of why it matters:

#### **1. Cognitive and Motor Development**

- Fine motor skills: Writing neatly helps children develop hand-eye coordination and control over small muscle movements.
- Brain development: The act of forming letters by hand activates areas of the brain involved in thinking, language, and memory.

#### **2. Academic Success**

- Legibility: Teachers can more easily read and assess a child's work, which can directly impact assessment and feedback.
- Writing fluency: Neat handwriting supports faster and more efficient writing, which is crucial during timed tasks like exams.

#### **3. Confidence and Self-Esteem**

- Children often feel proud of their work when it looks neat and presentable, which can boost their confidence and motivation to learn.

#### **4. Communication Skills**

- Handwriting is a form of expression. Neat writing ensures that ideas are communicated clearly and effectively to others.

#### **5. Foundation for Future Learning**

- Good handwriting habits established early can support later learning, including notetaking, essay writing, and even digital communication (as it reinforces spelling and grammar).

#### **6. Behavioural and Emotional Regulation**

- The focus and discipline required for neat handwriting can help children develop patience, attention to detail, and perseverance.

### **How do we teach and practice handwriting?**

Letter-join is our chosen handwriting program. It uses a unique combination of print and cursive fonts, allowing children to practice both styles of handwriting. The letters are designed so that children can see the difference between print and cursive writing. They can then practise writing the letters correctly in both styles.

Ultimately, the program helps students focus on the content rather than the process of writing.

Letter-join has specific objectives for our pupils at each learning level:

EYFS: Develop writing skills with pre-cursive patterns and cursive letters. This includes letter formation, capitalisation and punctuation symbols.

KS1: Developing pupils' skills in legible handwriting. This involves practising good pen control, legibility and accuracy.

KS2: Accomplishing neat handwriting and fluent handwriting. This involves developing fluency, speed and accuracy. Children with neat handwriting can share a picture gallery of their handwritten words with their friends and parents.

As pupils write with automaticity, they will develop a more personal handwriting style and will learn to write at different paces and pay different attention to neatness.

### **Pencil Grip**

All pupils are encouraged to use the tripod grip—where a child holds a pencil using the thumb, index, and middle fingers—is important because it supports efficient, controlled, and comfortable handwriting. To practice this at home you can use this rhyme:

#### **Tripod Grip Rhyme**

Listen to the rhyme:

▶ 0:00 / 0:08 ———— 🔊 ⋮

##### **Right Handed Grip**



*Point away the pencil,*



*Pinch it near the tip,*



*Lift it off the table,*



*Spin it round...*



*...and grip.*

##### **Left Handed Grip**



*Point away the pencil,*



*Pinch it near the tip,*



*Lift it off the table,*



*Spin it round...*



*...and grip.*



