



Handwriting at St Lawrence's

St Lawrence's Primary have adopted Twinkl Handwriting to provide pupils with a school-wide consistent approach to handwriting. We follow a carefully structured scheme of lessons so that all pupils are taught progressively from Early Years to Year 6 and to ensure National Curriculum objectives are achieved.

Intent

Handwriting at St Lawrence's ensures that pupils are given the opportunity to practise letter formation, joining letters and writing fluently and at speed for each letter of the alphabet. The letters are taught in the same sequence for each year group. This ensures consistency and allows handwriting skills to be taught progressively.

EYFS focuses on developing gross and fine motor skills, which are vital to develop good handwriting. The letters are taught in line with our phonics scheme, Little Wandle.

KS1 lessons are taught using Steps 2 and 3 of Twinkl Handwriting (Forming Letter Families and Positioning & Pre-Cursive). These steps teach pupils the statutory objectives of the National Curriculum:

- To sit correctly at a table;
- To hold a pencil comfortably and correctly;
- To begin to form lower case letters in the correct direction and of the correct size relative to one another;
- To start and finish letters in the correct place;
- To form capital letters and the digits 0-9 of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower case letters;
- To understand which letters belong to which handwriting 'families';
- To start using some of the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters; and
- To use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters.

KS2 lessons are taught using Steps 4 and 5 of Twinkl Handwriting (Joining Letters and Fluency, Style & Speed). These steps teach pupils that statutory objectives of the National Curriculum for Years 3 to 6:

- To use the diagonal and horizontal strokes that are needed to join letters;
- To increase the legibility, fluency, consistency and quality of their handwriting;
- To ensure that their lines of writing are spaced sufficiently so that the ascenders and descenders of letters do not touch;
- To write with increasing speed by choosing which shape of a letter to use when given choices and deciding whether or not to join specific letters; and
- To choose the writing implement that is best suited for a task.

St Lawrence's handwriting scheme intends to take all pupils on a journey to using fluent, speedy and joined handwriting throughout their independent writing. This, in turn, will help support their spelling and composition.



Implementation

The Progression Map gives the detailed steps for implementing the handwriting scheme.

The detailed planning and progressive sequence of the programme assures subject quality, sufficient depth and coverage of skills and gives our teachers the curriculum expertise to deliver effective writing transcription lessons. The resources enable effective curriculum implementation and can be differentiated to meet all pupils' learning needs. Where gaps are identified, the resources can be used in intervention sessions to enhance pupils' capacity to access the full curriculum. Each lesson has built-in assessment opportunities. Our handwriting scheme also allows for review and revision lessons each term.

The scheme is teachers correct letter formation using 'letter families'. The long-term planning follows the same structure in each year group

Autumn Term- The Ladder Family (l, i, u t, y and j), Assess and Review, The One-armed Robot Family (n, m and h), Handwriting Practise

Spring Term- The One-armed Robot Family (k, b, p and r), Assess and Review, The Curly Caterpillar Family (c, a, d, e, s and g)

Summer Term- The Curly Caterpillar Family (f, q and o), Assess and Review, The Zigzag Monster Family (z, v, w and x), Assess and Review, Handwriting Practise

Each class has a weekly handwriting lesson planned into the timetable.

All classes use handwriting books to encourage correct sizing of letters from KS1 onwards. This also encourages pupils to use their handwriting skills in all lessons, not just in their weekly handwriting sessions. Good handwriting will be praised in writing lessons and it forms part of St Lawrence's Marking and Feedback sheets.

Worksheets are used for pupils who require extra intervention and support to ensure correct letter formation, they do not form the basis of handwriting lessons. Handwriting is also practised in weekly spelling lessons. Spellings are taught in the cursive style and weekly homework sheets allow pupils to practise their handwriting and spellings together.

Good handwriting is promoted by all members of staff, in all lessons. St Lawrence's also uses Sassoon primary infant in the majority of typed information shared with the class.

Impact

The impact of St Lawrence's handwriting scheme is seen across the school with an increase in the profile of handwriting. Following the Twinkl Handwriting scheme gives St Lawrence's a consistent approach where handwriting expectations are clear and the same technical vocabulary is used with, and spoken by, all teaching staff and pupils. Parental engagement is also improved through the homework and weekly spelling/ handwriting sheets. The impact of St Lawrence's handwriting scheme is evident in all written areas of the curriculum.