



Handwriting  
At  
Intack

## Handwriting at Intack Primary School

At Intack we aim to fulfil the requirements of the EYFS Statutory Framework 2021 and the National Curriculum 2014, by teaching children to have a handwriting style that is fluent, joined and legible by the end of their primary education.

### Handwriting in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1.

In order that our children can eventually acquire a legible, fluent and fast handwriting style, they will be encouraged to develop skills including:

- good gross and fine motor control;
- a recognition of pattern;
- a language to talk about shapes and movements;
- the main handwriting movements involved in the three basic letter shapes, as exemplified by: l, c ,r.
- **They will be taught that letters belong to these three handwriting movements, and will be referred to as belonging to the 'long ladder' family, the 'curly caterpillar' family and the 'one-armed robot' family.**

Skills for handwriting will be introduced from a very early stage. Children will be allowed to pick the writing implement themselves and decide which hand they prefer.

In the Foundation Stage, children will be taught patterns for writing which focus on the three basic letter shapes,

l, the long ladder;  
c, the curly caterpillar;  
r, the one-armed robot.

These patterns for writing will be taught through the following types of activities:

- sky writing with both hands,
- letter patterns in the sand tray,

- using a variety of writing implements e.g. pens, felt tips etc
- tracing over letters,
- large movements making curves, zig-zags with ribbons on strings,
- children making different body shapes.

Throughout these early activities, the language of writing will be taught. This is crucial, as it enables children to verbalise their physical actions and understand the language of writing (top, bottom, up, down, round, over, back, join, curved etc.)

In the Foundation Stage, children will not always use lined paper as this can inhibit the children's natural flow. Until children have gained reasonable fine motor skills through art and other activities, formal handwriting worksheets are not appropriate and therefore not used.

As our children begin to write letters, they will be provided with sheets of paper with a single line. Lined paper then becomes important because so much of handwriting is to do with the letters' orientation on the line. Children will be supervised when they are practising handwriting until letter formation is secure (to discourage bad habits). The teaching of phonics and handwriting will be linked as this is an ideal basis for emergent writing. Children are encouraged to think about letter shapes and sounds together.

In Year 1, children will continue to be practise forming letter correctly and confidently, they will also be taught which letters belong to which handwriting family'

l, the long ladder family;

c, the curly caterpillar family;

r, the one-armed robot family;

In Year 2, children will revise and practise correct letter formation, when they can form letters securely children will then be taught a joined style of handwriting.

## Handwriting in Key Stage 2

Throughout Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 children will be encouraged to refine their handwriting skills to produce a fluent and legible script that can be produced at speed. They will begin to develop their own personal style and will probably experiment with both size and style through this period. At this stage they will be informed of what is and what is not acceptable. They should continue to use handwriting books throughout this time for practise.

Children in Key Stage 2 will often be asked to write for a range of purposes and the handwriting involved will often differ. Children will have these levels explained to them so they know what sort of writing is required for a specific purpose.

## Special Educational Needs

Some children will find forming letters correctly, difficult whatever the style of handwriting. They should not be taught an alternative style but should spend some time improving their fine motor skills which in turn should lead to greater control and fluency of movement.

## Left- Handed Children.

Left- handed children can have difficulties with handwriting. They should always sit to the left of a right- handed child to prevent arms colliding. They also need to be shown how to angle their paper.

## Guidelines

All classes should have at least two formal whole handwriting lesson each week

Teachers should use a clear and fluent, joined handwriting style at all times to provide a model.

The handwriting scheme we use is Letter-Join.

All classes should have a display for handwriting, this should include the correct fonts to be taught, and should celebrate good examples of handwriting from children.

In EYFS and Year 1 the **Letter-Join Print font** should be used - this is non-cursive and teaches children the correct letter form and ensures that children can form letters correctly before they move onto a cursive script.

From year 2 onwards, when children are correctly writing letters, children should be taught cursive handwriting.

Children should be encouraged to use joined handwriting in all of their work, it is not only for handwriting books.

## Pen Licence

Children with neat, legible handwriting will be given a *Pen Licence* which is a celebration of their efforts in handwriting. The pen licence will allow the child to move from writing in pencil to using a handwriting pen (as appropriate and in all books except mathematics).

A piece of work should be presented to the deputy headteacher who will then issue a licence and pen if appropriate.

It is expected that by year 5 most pupils will have earned their pen licence.

## **End of Year Expectations for Handwriting.**

**(From Statutory Framework for the early years foundation stage 2021 and The National Curriculum 2014)**

### **Foundation Stage**

Early Learning Goal: Fine motor skills

- Hold a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing - using the tripod grip in almost all cases.

Early Learning Goal: Writing

- Write recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed.

### **Year 1**

Children should be taught to sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly,

Begin to form lower-case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place,

Form capital letters,

Form digits 0-9

Understand which letters belong to which handwriting 'families' and to practise these.

**From year 2 onwards children are encouraged to join their handwriting.**

### **Year 2**

Form lower-case letters of the correct size relative to one another,

Start using some of the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters, and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left un-joined.

Write capital letters and digits of the corrects size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower-case letters,

Use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters.

**Year 3&4**

Use the diagonal and horizontal strokes that are needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined,

Increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting.

**Year 5&6**

Write legibly, fluently and with increasing speed by:

Choosing which shape of a letter to use when given choices and deciding, as part of their personal style, whether or not to join specific letters,

Choosing the writing implement that is best suited for a task.

Reviewed December 2021

Next review date December 2022

F. Hamriding