

Langmoor Glenmere Academy Trust Handwriting Policy

Updated September 2017

Introduction:

The academy trust is committed to enable pupils to achieve through a high standard of handwriting and presentation of written work, through the use of effective and efficient pen control, good concentration, mark making and writing that starts on the line.

Benefits of a cursive style of handwriting.

Cursive script has an impact on children's reading and writing ability and this script has been promoted in schools. While recognising this adults need to be aware of the perceptual development of each individual child. Occasionally children in the Foundation Stage will be able to link curves and straight lines successfully but it should never be assumed that all children are at the same stage of development.

Handwriting and reading

In school children will be exposed to both cursive and print styles as well as commercial print. They develop an awareness of reading in print and writing in cursive side by side in their learning, such as prompts around school and through teachers modelling of writing.

Handwriting rules

1. Each lower case letter starts on the line with an entry stroke (can be called a swoop in EYFS/KS1 in line with instructions for letter formation)

2. Letters which finish at the top join horizontally
3. Letters which finish at the bottom join diagonally
4. All rounded letters are closed
5. All similar letters are the same height
6. Each letter should be written in one flowing movement
7. Each words should be written in one flowing movement

Foundation Stage

EYFS use a variety of strategies in line with the EYFS curriculum to encourage mark making and the development of both fine and gross motor skills. Scrimbling is used up until Christmas to encourage pre writing and writing skills in a fun way.

By the Summer term all children will have been introduced to the all letters of the alphabet with the entry stroke and capital letters. Foundation Stage teachers, through assessment, will differentiate the children that are developmentally ready to be introduced to the cursive script.

Key Stage 1

Year 1

Children develop the basic handwriting patterns found in letter formation. Skills acquired in EYFS are continued and consolidated. Sounds are closely linked to handwriting patterns and the children's visual awareness of words is harnessed.

Practise of particular High Frequency Words helps to develop good visual and writing habits. Spellings are closely linked with handwriting activities assisting the children with phonic skills required for successful reading.

Year 2

Children develop more intense skills of concentration, correct formation and more self confidence. Less confusion with b/d reversal

should be more evident through using cursive style, which will develop further in year 2.

Key Stage 2

Children will continue with the fully cursive handwriting style taught in Key Stage 1. The expectation will be that most children are forming and joining letters correctly by the time they are in year 3. During early morning time children will practise handwriting linked to spellings. Teachers and teaching assistants should model the fully cursive style when writing on the whiteboard, IWB or in children's books.

Children will be awarded a pen when they show correct joining and improvement in their writing style.

Left handed children

Ensure that:

- The writing surface and chair are suitable for the child's height
- The child sits towards the left of their partner
- A writing tool which moves smoothly across the paper is used
- The paper is supported by the right hand

Children with difficulties

Teachers should be aware that children with Dyspraxia, ASD, Cerebral palsy and Down's syndrome or any other motor functioning impairment may have ongoing difficulty with handwriting due to the nature of their special need.