



Handwriting Policy

What is this policy for?

This policy sets out how we teach handwriting in line with the legal requirements of the National Curriculum 2014. It describes how our provision for writing allows all pupils to develop key life skills that let them express their ideas and opinions.

The vision for handwriting

At Becket Primary all children will be able to write in both joined and printed styles fluently and accurately. We understand that good handwriting is critical to children's writing progress. It is essential that handwriting is practised until it is fluent and effortless so that the children can put all their effort into thinking about what they are writing.

Implementation

When is writing taught and learned?

Handwriting is taught as discreet lessons using 'Unlocking Letters and Sounds' and as part of modelling during all writing opportunities.

In Foundation Stage, handwriting is taught in small groups or as a whole class with one focus per week. In Key Stage 1, handwriting is taught at least twice a week. In KS2, it is taught based on children's needs.

How is handwriting taught and learned?

Teachers deliver handwriting lessons in full affiliation with the Unlocking Letters and Sounds programme. Each handwriting session will revisit previous learning, teach new letter or number formation, allow time for children to practise, revise and then apply their new skill.

In all lessons where writing takes place, children will be reminded of correct letter formation and joins. In maths lessons, correct number formation will be modelled and if necessary practised.

All teachers will model handwriting in line with the appropriate stage of the Unlocking Letters and Sounds programme and when writing comments in books.

What do we learn in handwriting?

In Foundation Stage, children are taught to master Gross and Fine Motor Skills before establishing the correct pencil grip and writing position. They will develop pre writing skills as well as letter and number formation.

Key Stage 1, will continue developing these skills at a mastery level before learning cursive in Year 2.



In Key Stage 2, children continue to develop their joining skills, building confidence and fluency. Pencil grip and posture continue to be taught and monitored.

How do we measure success in handwriting?

Formative assessment is used by teachers daily to plan for next lessons.

In KS2, children have the opportunity to be awarded their Handwriting Pen License through developing neat and consistently joined handwriting that can be seen in all written pieces of work.

Resources

Unlocking Letters and Sounds handwriting scheme is followed by all staff. This includes planning, printouts and visual aids displayed in the classrooms. Triangular pencils and pencil grips are made available to children with the relevant need, as is enlarged print where necessary.

Safety and risk

To avoid any strain to newly developing muscles during handwriting children are taught how to sit and hold writing equipment comfortably to find their writing position.

Community involvement and collaborations

Throughout the year children have the opportunity to share their work through celebration assemblies and on displays.

The school's policy, curriculum materials and any linked documents are available for public scrutiny on the school website.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The English team will monitor the standards of handwriting across the school. This will occur through a range of activities including monitoring planning, observation of lessons, work sampling and pupil interviews.

Information gathered is shared with the leadership team.

Policy written: November 2020

Policy reviewed: November 2023, reviewed following adopting ULS phonics/handwriting September 2024

Next Review date: September 2026

Ratified by the Local Governing Body: December 2023