



Handwriting and Presentation Policy

At Mersey Park, we believe that neat, correctly formed handwriting is essential to our children's educational achievement. Our main aim is that handwriting becomes an automatic process which frees pupils to focus on the content of their writing. Handwriting skills are taught regularly and systematically through the use of a cursive handwriting approach named our 'Mersey Park Script'.

Aims We teach our children to use:

- Produce clear, legible handwriting with correct letter formation
- Develop flow and speed
- Develop a cursive, joined script
- Take pride in their work.

Teaching and Learning

- Patterns are used initially, by writing with a variety of tools and using multisensory methods to help free-flowing hand motions.
- Correct pencil hold and letter formation are taught from the beginning and activities are planned to develop hand strength and fine motor control.
- All staff use the same letter patten (terminology)
- Handwriting is consistently correctly modelled to the children.
- Handwriting is taught daily as part of phonics and spellings sessions.
- Display writing throughout the school includes cursive writing
- Children who are struggling with their handwriting are given additional support and resources where necessary

Foundation Stage

The initial emphasis at this stage is with movement. Art, music, pattern and play are used to introduce the language and movement of letter shapes, prior to writing. Stimulating equipment is used to encourage mark making with brushes, streamers, paint, sand and water. As they begin to develop their finer motor skills, the children are encouraged and motivated to write with a range of materials in different ways.

Once the children move to F2, they are taught to form their letters correctly as each new letter is introduced through Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised. They are taught a cursive script with each letter leading in from the line. The children are introduced to our letter patterns at this point.

Key Stage 1

Children consolidate their letter formation and begin to build fluency. It is expected that most children will be joining their handwriting by the end of Year 2.

Key Stage 2

Children continue to develop their cursive style, adhering to the Mersey Park Script and are able to increase their pace and fluency. In Year 3, pupils are taught to set out their page correctly with the date and title in the correct position. Children who are still struggling with handwriting are given additional support and practice time.

The use of ICT

Software is available on all computers to allow staff and children to type sentences and words using the cursive script. Teachers model writing on interactive whiteboards but also on large lined paper where possible.

Monitoring

Handwriting will be monitored as an ongoing process through regular book scrutinies and lesson observations.