

Handwriting @ Collingwood Primary School

At Collingwood, we believe that **Handwriting** is more than just a mechanical skill; it is a fundamental tool for communication and a vital component of literacy. We view fluent, legible handwriting as the key to cognitive automaticity. When the physical act of writing becomes automatic, children free up valuable working memory. This allows them to focus entirely on the higher-level cognitive demands of writing, such as composition, vocabulary choices, spelling, and sentence structure.

Our ultimate goal is for every child to develop a fluid, effortless, and cursive style that serves as a vehicle for their creativity and academic success.

Retrieval Practice

Chn use the same lesson format each time to minimise cognitive overload
Chn practise activities to support fine and gross motor control, and pencil grip
Target letters and joins are readdressed to ensure learning is 'sticky' before moving on.

Content and Sequencing

EYFS – From the very beginning of their writing journey, handwriting is intrinsically linked to our reading program. We utilise the **Read Write Inc. (RWInc) handwriting scheme** to perfectly complement our phonics provision.

In EYFS, children follow Stage 1, introducing graphemes alongside their phonemes. Repeated practice of letter formation is key at this stage.

KS1– Children are introduced to the RWInc Stage 2 and 3 Letter Village and the accompanying videos. They revisit formation of letters in family groups and progress to making joins, with daily systematic practice and explicit teaching.

KS2– Children continue their journey through the Stage 3 and 4 Letter Village and the accompanying videos. They revisit previous learning and develop their understanding of joins and break letters, developing a mature, efficient and fluent style.

Practice occurs three times across the week until children have developed a style which is both effective and efficient.

Essentials

- Be able to form all letters correctly.
- Be able to start and finish letters in the right place.
- Be able to use appropriate spacing between words
- Be able to produce letters of appropriate size in relation to one another.
- Be able to use the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters and understand which letters are best left unjoined
- Be able to form capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower case letters
- Be able to maintain legibility in joined handwriting when writing at speed

Assessment & Progress

Stages are carefully sequenced with learning revisited at key points. Target letters/family groups are addressed through formative assessment to ensure work is targeted appropriately.

Progression to the next stage will be based on stage not age to ensure that concepts are built upon.

Regular formative assessment and immediate feedback ensures gaps are filled.