

St Maby

Church of England Primary School

Handwriting Policy

At St Maby school, through God's love we learn, grow and flourish together.

St Maby Church of England Primary School

Our school is one part of a family of well-connected schools. It is a small, nurturing school packed full of love: love for one another; love for learning; love for our neighbours and community and love for God. It comfortably sits in the heart of a picturesque, small rural village being overlooked by St Maby Church. In our school, adults and children collaborate to create a safe learning environment where everyone can flourish and achieve greatness, becoming curious imaginative life-long learners. St Maby School is the gateway through which the future possibility of the adult emerges.

1 John 3:18

"My little children, let us not love in word or tongue, but in deed and in truth,"

Statement of Intent

At St Maby, we use teachhandwriting.co.uk supplemented with Twinkl Handwriting to provide a consistent approach to handwriting with a planned sequence of lessons to ensure coverage of the progressive skills required to meet the aims of the National Curriculum for writing transcription and the related Early Learning Goals.

To begin with, we aim to help children to develop their fine and gross motor skills and pencil control as a precursor to effective handwriting: to show good control and coordination in large and small movements, to move confidently in a range of ways while safely negotiating space, to handle equipment and tools effectively and to safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques.

As children progress, we teach children the statutory objectives from the year 1 and year 2 curriculum: to sit correctly at a table, to hold a pencil comfortably and correctly, to begin to form lower case letters in the correct direction and of the correct size relative to one another, to start and finish letters in the right place, to form capital letters and the digits 0-9 of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower case letters, to understand which letters belong to which handwriting 'families', to start using some of the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters and to use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters.

In KS2, we aim to focus on joining letters, fluency, style & speed, teaching the statutory skills from the year 3 - year 6 curriculum: to use the diagonal and horizontal strokes that are needed to join letters; to increase the legibility, fluency, consistency and quality of their handwriting; to ensure that their lines of writing are spaced sufficiently so that the ascenders and descenders of letters do not touch; to write with increasing speed by choosing which shape of a letter to use when given choices and deciding whether or not to join specific letters and to choose the writing implement that is best suited for a task.

We aim to take all pupils on a journey to using fluent, speedy and joined handwriting throughout their independent writing. This, in turn, will help to support their composition and spelling.

Implementation

The approach we follow from teachhandwriting.co.uk is as follow -



Choose Key Stage

Handwriting in Key Stage 2 (7 - 11 yrs)



UK National Curriculums for handwriting

Statutory requirements plus notes and guidance for teaching handwriting to 7 to 11 year olds in; England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.



Handwriting animations and worksheets

Free animations and accompanying worksheets to support children through the 3 stages of handwriting: pre-handwriting patterns, single letter formation and joins.



Pencil grip for handwriting

The expected pencil grip developmental stages for this age group and advice on how to support children through them.



Sitting position for handwriting

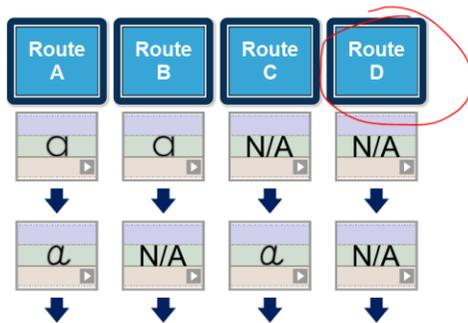
The best sitting position, when handwriting, for both right and left-handed writers.

Click on Route D

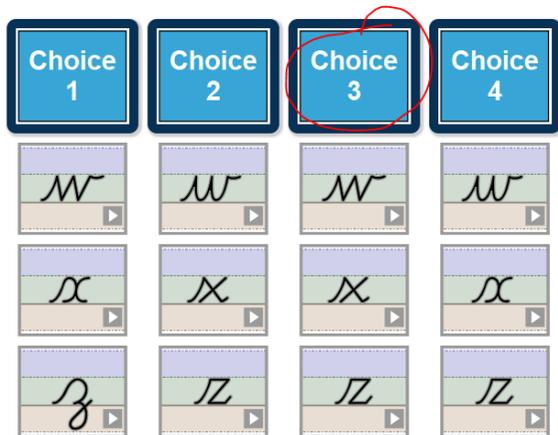


The four teaching routes

We provide four possible handwriting teaching routes based on the order you want to teach the fonts.



Click on Choice 4



Children use videos/worksheets to learn letter formation, joining etc.

Beginning with - Straight line, curves to start, top exit, tunnel, hooks loops and lines. Once children confident with single letters, lower case and capital, to move to letter joins – bottom joins, bottom to c shaped letter joins, bottom e letter joins, top e letter joins, top letter joins.

Worksheets do not need to be used but guidance for content in our handwriting books.

Once children confident with forming individual lowercase and capital letters and all letter joins, we use Twinkl continuous cursive resources that move to words, sentences and passages for children to practise.

We incorporate handwriting warm up activities throughout the day to improve gross and fine motor skills. These activities get the body ready for handwriting and relax it during extended handwriting tasks.

Progression

Level expected at the end of EYFS.	Key Stage 1 National Curriculum Expectations	Key Stage 2 National Curriculum Expectations
<p>Pupils should be taught to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• show good control and coordination in large and small movements.• move confidently in a range of ways, safely negotiating space.• handle equipment and tools effectively.• safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques.	<p>Pupils should be taught to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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' (i.e. letters that are formed in similar ways) and to practise these.• 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 unjoined.• write capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower case letters.• use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters.	<p>Pupils should be taught to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 for example, by ensuring that the downstrokes of letters are parallel and equidistant; that lines of writing are spaced sufficiently so that the ascenders and descenders of letters do not touch.• write legibly, fluently and with increasing speed by:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• choosing which shape of a letter to use when given choices and deciding whether or not to join specific letters.• choosing the writing implement that is best suited for a task.

Left Handed Handwriting

We use 'Left Hand Writing Skills' – A comprehensive scheme of techniques and practice for left-handers, with guidelines for parents and teachers by Mark and Heather Stewart to ensure the needs of all of our writers are met.

Impact

The impact of using both teachhandwriting.co.uk and Twinkl Handwriting resources will be seen across the school with an increase in the profile of handwriting. Following these schemes, gives us a consistent approach where handwriting expectations are clear and the same technical vocabulary is used with, and spoken by, all teaching staff and learners.