

# Handwriting

At The Leys, we believe that neat, well formed handwriting and presentation of written work helps to raise standards as the pupils take pride in and have a sense of ownership of their work. As a school we are adopting the fully cursive method of handwriting.

To enable every pupil to master fast, legible handwriting, we use the Start-Bee Handwriting Scheme in EYFS and Year 1, the order of programmes systematically;

1. Teaches the child how to hold a pencil correctly.
2. Helps them to develop strong writing muscles and the correct posture for writing.
3. Helps them to master making patterns and writing their names.
4. Helps them to form all letters in lowercase and uppercase alphabet.
5. Progresses them from joining up whole words in sentences to writing complete paragraphs.
6. Helps them to write an A4 page of handwritten legible text in under ten minutes.

## How we track and reward handwriting progress.

The school follows the outline as set out by the Standards & Testing Agency's Expectations for Handwriting for KS1 and KS2 (Appendix 1).

### Year 1

- o Lower-case letters are written in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place.
- o Pupils can write capital letters.
- o Pupils can write digits 0-9.

### Year 2

- o Pupils can write lower-case letters of the correct size relative to one another

- o Pupils are starting to join up their letters
- o Pupils are able to write capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower-case letters
- o Pupils are using spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters

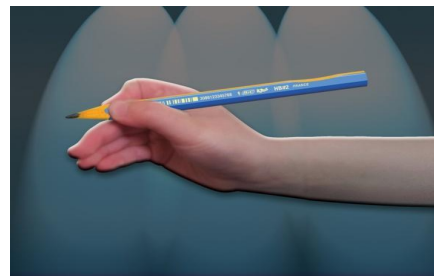
### Year 3 and 4

- o Pupils are joining up their letters.
- o Pupil's handwriting is becoming increasingly neater, legible and the quality is more consistent.

### Year 5 and 6

- o Pupils can produce a neat, joined up legible script.
- o Pupils can speed up their handwriting by:
  - o choosing which shape of a letter to use when given choices and deciding whether or not to join specific letters
  - o choosing the writing implement that is best suited for a task

**How a pencil should be held correctly:**



Pupils are recognised and rewarded for completing each criteria.

### Left-handed pupils

All teachers are aware of the specific needs of left-handed pupils and make appropriate provision:

- o paper should be positioned to the left for right handed pupils and to the right for left-handed pupils and slanted to suit the individual in either case;
- o pencils should not be held too close to the point as this can interrupt pupils' line of vision;
- o pupils should be positioned so that they can place their paper to their left side;

- o left-handed pupils should sit to the left of a right-handed child, so that they are not competing for space;
- o extra practice with left-to-right exercises may well be necessary before pupils write left-to-right automatically.

Teachers are alert to the fact that it is very difficult for left-handed pupils to follow handwriting movements when they are modelled by a right-handed teacher. Teachers should demonstrate to left-handers on an individual or group basis, even if the resulting writing is not neat.

## **Handwriting Certificates - Steps to Success**

### **EYFS to Year 2 - Emerging Stage**

- I can sit on my chair correctly
- I can write on the line.
- I can write with correct spaces between my words.
- I can write my letter and numbers in the correct size.
- I can write lower-case letters with the correct direction.
- I can write lower-case letters with starting and finishing points in the right place.
- I can write capital letters.
- I can write digits 0-9.
- I am starting to join up my letters.

### **Key Stage 2- Developing Stage**

- I can join up my letters.
- I can join my letters with starting and finishing points in the right place.
- I can join up my letters in a neat and legible way.

### **Pen Licence - Secure Stage**

- I can produce neat and legible joined up writing.
- I can join and write speedily.