



Parent Mini Guide

The Three
Schools

Cursive handwriting

Cursive Handwriting

This leaflet is to explain how and why we teach handwriting at The Three Schools. It also includes ideas on ways in which you can help to develop your child's handwriting at home.

Our handwriting policy aims to:

- Promote and develop a joined cursive handwriting style as letter forms are being mastered.
- Promote and develop children's handwriting to be clear, fluent, legible and fast.
- Link handwriting skills and styles to patterns and rules of the English spelling system.
- Promote opportunities for children to become enthusiastic about their handwriting.

How do we teach handwriting?

Your child will be taught to develop a handwriting style that progresses smoothly from initial cursive letter formation to joined fluency. Research has shown that it is often difficult for children to change from printed to joined script in Year 2. Therefore, we will be teaching the children to use cursive script from the earliest stages of mark making to prepare them for joining. Cursive handwriting joins all letters except for capital letters. All letters start on the line making it easier to remember which way to go in order to form them.

Tools for handwriting:

- It is essential for children to maintain the correct writing position. Having the correct pencil grip and pressure helps to have control over letter formation. Sitting with correct posture at a desk with feet flat on the floor and both arms resting on the desk will help with presentation and focus.
- In maths children write in pencil. Any written work is written in cursive script.
- In English children begin writing in pencil. Once children are joining letters neatly, easily and quickly the teacher will give them a 'pen license' which allows children to use a blue ink pen. This usually happens in year 3 or 4.

How can you help your child?

- When writing always encourage your child to write on a line, even if they have to draw it themselves. This helps the children to orientate their letters and recognise where letters begin.
- Encourage your child to use cursive script in any work brought home.
- When learning spellings, encourage them to use the look, cover, write, check method, but they should join the letters. They learn to remember the necessary movements of spelling patterns and this will help them to remember the spelling of a word.
- Use the sheet provided to model writing in a cursive script.

a b c d e f g

h i j k l m n

o p q r s t u

v w x y z