



HANDWRITING POLICY

Philosophy

Teaching handwriting explicitly, systematically and progressively in line with the DfE Writing Framework, enables learners to acquire the automaticity in transcription necessary for effective written communication. Teaching Handwriting from the beginning of reception facilitates the successful development of handwriting and physical skills. This frees up pupils' working memory, allowing them to focus on the composition of their ideas.

Manor Farm Infant School strives for all pupils to achieve a legible, consistent and fluent handwriting style, enabling them to express their knowledge and understanding confidently across the entire curriculum. This includes establishing consistent 'ready to write' routines and providing appropriate resources to support every learner's development.

Aims

- To establish a whole-school, systematic and progressive approach to teaching handwriting.
- To ensure learners develop the physical skills needed to achieve a comfortable, efficient and correct pencil grip.
- To ensure learners can form letters correctly and consistently, leading to clear legibility.
- To progress from discrete letter formation to a fluent, joined and automatic handwriting style at the appropriate time for each individual.
- To enable learners to write at an appropriate speed for their age, freeing up their cognitive load for composition.
- To foster pride in the presentation of written work across all subjects.

Handwriting at Manor Farm

Our school uses the Twinkl Handwriting scheme.

Each lesson follows a 5-part teaching pattern:

Warmup - Learners get ready to write by completing a gross and/or fine motor warm-up activity.

Teach - Letter formations are introduced through direct, explicit instruction that uses letter formation mnemonics and letter family characters. Videos can be used to demonstrate correct letter formation.

Practise – Each Lesson Presentation offers opportunities to model formations, strokes and joins. Learners are then encouraged to join in and practise these.

Apply – Learners apply their newly taught knowledge and understanding to complete a variety of independent writing tasks.

Assess - Each learner is closely observed and given high-quality feedback, with side-by-side modelling where appropriate.

Physical skills for writing, including both gross and fine motor skills, will be taught explicitly within handwriting sessions with the aim of supporting all children to use a tripod grip.

Letters are taught in a sequence according to the directional stroke required to form them. Each letter family is represented by a memorable character, which guides learners on their writing journey.

Support and Intervention

Manor Farm Infant School recognises that every learner is unique and develops handwriting skills at different rates.

To ensure learners successfully access the handwriting scheme and learning, we will make adaptations to support children who require additional support. This will include gross and fine motor activities, 1:1 and small group interventions.

Reviewed March 2026