

Abbey Academies Trust



Every Child Matters

POLICY

For

HANDWRITING

Amended

November 2007	April 2019	September 2023
November 2010	April 2021	
February 2014	September 2021	
September 2016	September 2022	

Every Child Matters within a loving and caring Christian environment
Striving for Excellence, Caring for All

Handwriting Policy

Article 28: Every child has the right to an education

Article 29: Every child has the right to be the best they can.

Our aim is to teach each child to write legibly, fluently and at a reasonable speed.

At our Academies, handwriting is taught using the 2016 Nelson Handwriting scheme. Children are introduced to this style from their earliest schooling as it is considered to be the most natural development of children's earliest attempts at writing. Teachers and TAs are expected to model the handwriting style in their handwriting. See the example below:

Make hay while the sun shines.

Don't count your chickens before they're hatched.

He who laughs last laughs loudest.

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush

People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.

When the cat's away the mice will play.

Every cloud has a silver lining.

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.



AIMS

Each aim is considered equally important:

- To ensure children use a consistently neat standard of handwriting across the curriculum, not just within handwriting sessions
- To teach correct letter formation.
- To aid in the elimination of letter reversals.
- To develop a comfortable grip and posture when writing.
- To ensure that children of differing abilities are provided with appropriate and achievable goals.
- To support the development of correct spelling.

- To assist children in taking pride with presentation of their work.
- To display excellent examples of 'take care' handwriting in every classroom and around the school.

At our academies we follow the Nelson Handwriting scheme from the Spring Term in Reception through to Year 6. The Handwriting Guidebooks provide structured progression beginning with development of fine motor skills and moving through letter and pattern formations, ensuring there is consistency across the school.

Teachers and TAs are expected to use the Guidebooks and Nelson Handwriting software to inform their planning and teaching in order to ensure there is full coverage of skills. Teachers are encouraged to personalise their handwriting sessions with an emphasis on creativity and enjoyment while meeting the needs of all individuals. In some instances it may be necessary for handwriting intervention to be implemented to enable children to keep up, not catch up.

(See Handwriting Guidebooks p.24 onwards, for further details of the progression throughout school).

Display

All handwritten aspects of displays should model high quality, cursive writing in line with the Nelson Handwriting Scheme. This includes both children's work and learning prompts.

Feedback and Presentation

All teachers and support staff should consistently model high standards of handwriting in line with the Nelson Handwriting Scheme. Children's responses to feedback should demonstrate the same high standards of presentation where written responses are required. It may be necessary for children in KS2 to practise using response pens in order to ensure this consistency.

Throughout school, children are expected to write in a sharp pencil. In KS2 children who have consistently demonstrated high standards of presentation across the curriculum, are able to earn a Pen Licence. These children are then allowed to write in a blue handwriting pen in English and topic lessons providing their presentation remains at a high standard. In Maths, and when drawing diagrams, children are expected to use pencil.

When necessary, writing slopes, pencil grips, coloured paper and handwriting prompts will be made available for children with additional needs.

Handwriting will be taught in discrete sessions for a minimum of 4x10 min sessions per week and will be completed in separate handwriting books as agreed within Key Stages across both schools.

Starting in Key Stage One, children will use handwriting books which support the development of accurate letter formation. As soon as children have letter formation secure, they will complete handwriting practice within their English book.