



Handwriting at GHF



Here at GHF we are very proud of our pupil's handwriting and take particular care in our cursive/joined-up handwriting style. We use Letter-join as the basis of our handwriting policy that covers all the requirements of the 2014 National Curriculum.

The curriculum says that children should learn to form all their lower case and capital letters plus digits 0 to 9 by the end of Year 1. They then need to start joining their letters in Year 2. In Year 3, they need to concentrate on increasing the legibility, consistency and quality of their joined handwriting. Throughout Key Stage 2, children need to keep up the quality of their handwriting, and concentrate on increasing their speed.

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. Cursive handwriting joins all letters except for capital letters. All letters start from the line, making it easier to remember which way to go in order to form them. When writing, even in Reception classes, children will be encouraged to draw a line to write on. Handwriting will not only be taught in isolation, but as an integral part of all aspects of writing and spelling.

When learning cursive handwriting, children are not taught letters in alphabetical order. In Reception, children are taught alongside the individual phonics sounds (s, a, t, p, i, n). In Key Stage One they are revisited in groups according to their formation: for example, 'a', 'c', 'e' and 'o' are taught together because they're all based on an anticlockwise circle.

Once your child has mastered the formation of individual letters, their class teacher will encourage them to practice a joined style. During this key transitional phase the children **might**

begin to slant their letters and have inconsistent sizing and spacing. However, with regular practice the skill will soon be mastered.

How can you help your child?

When writing, always encourage the children 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.

Use the sheet provided on the back to model writing in a cursive script.

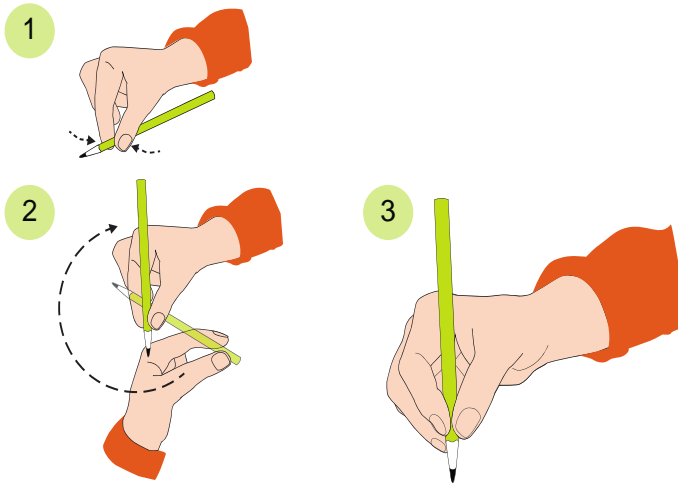
If you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

Left-Handed Children

- Pupils should position the paper/book to their left side and slanted.
- Pencils should not be held too close to the point as this can interrupt pupils' line of vision.
- Extra practice with left-to-right exercises may be necessary before pupils write left-to-right automatically.

TRIPOD PENCIL GRIP

Both right and left handed children should be encouraged to use the tripod grip which allows the pen/pencil to be held securely whilst allowing controlled movements of the pen/pencil nib.



- 1) Grip the pencil with your index finger and thumb with the nib pointing away.
- 2) With your free hand, spin the pencil from underneath.
- 3) Use your middle finger to support the underside of the pencil.

Cursive Lower Case Letters



Capital Letters

