

Windmill Hill Academy

Handwriting Policy

The An Daras Multi Academy Trust (ADMAT) Company
An Exempt Charity Limited by Guarantee
Company Number/08156955

Status: Draft	
Recommended	
Statutory	No
Version	V1
Adopted	Autumn 2021
Review	Autumn 2023
Advisory Committee	Senior Leadership Team English Lead
Linked Documents and Policies	EYFS Policy EYFS into Year 1 Transition Policy Feedback Policy Feedback and Presentation Guidance



Windmill Hill Academy's Mission Statement:

Inspiring Passionate Life Long Learners

We are committed to this by developing our 'Learning Sails' with pupils:

- **Reflection**

We ask all learners to give thought or consideration on their actions and learning.

- **Self-awareness**

We encourage self-awareness and having a conscious knowledge of one's own character, feelings and learning. We encourage learners to know where they are with their learning and their next steps.

- **Curiosity**

We inspire all learners to have strong desire to know or learn something, questioning their learning experiences to find out more.

- **Resilience and Tenacity**

We promote the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties or challenge. We encourage all to be very determined and show determination despite the challenge.

- **Connect**

We promote learning where connections can be made, where children can relate new and old learning.

UNICEF's Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA):

We follow a human rights based approach to behaviour through UNICEF's Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA), which helps schools to use the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) as the school's values framework.

This policy supports Article 28: *You have the right to a good quality education. You should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level you can.*

At Windmill Hill Academy we are very proud of our pupil's handwriting and take particular care in developing handwriting into the cursive style. We use Letter-join's on-line handwriting resource and Lesson Planners as the basis of our handwriting policy as it covers all the requirements of the National Curriculum.

Intention

Handwriting is a basic skill that influences the quality of work throughout the curriculum. By the end of Key Stage 2, all pupils should have the ability to produce fluent, legible and, eventually, speedy joined-up handwriting, and to understand the different forms of handwriting used for different purposes.

Our intention is to make handwriting an automatic process that does not interfere with creative and mental thinking.

Aims

- To develop a neat, legible, speedy handwriting style using continuous cursive letters, which leads to producing letters and words automatically in independent writing.
- To establish and maintain high expectations for the presentation of written work.
- For pupils to understand, by the end of Year 6, the importance of neat presentation and the need for different letterforms (cursive, printed or capital letters) to help communicate meaning clearly.



Expectations

All teaching staff are encouraged to model the cursive style in all their handwriting, whether on whiteboards, displays or in pupils' books.

Consistency throughout the school

Pupils should experience coherence and continuity in the learning and teaching of handwriting across all school years and be encouraged to take pride in the presentation of their work. Our intention is to help pupils enjoy learning and developing their handwriting with a sense of achievement and pride.

Handwriting frequency

Handwriting is a cross-curricular task and will be taken into consideration during all lessons. Formal teaching of handwriting will be carried out regularly and systematically to ensure Key Stage targets are met.

Pens and pencils

Children will start handwriting using a soft pencil. When fine motor skills have been established a handwriting pen can be used. Please refer to the pen licence criteria for achieving bronze, silver and gold.

Inclusion

For children who experience handwriting difficulties due to fine motor development, including those who are left-handed and those with special educational needs, the appropriate additional support will be put into place. Letter-join's Lesson Planners all include differentiation activities for extra practice/challenge.

Handwriting at Home

Pupils are encouraged to practise their handwriting at home by using the Pupil log-in for Letter-join. Teachers may set specific tasks such as:

- Magic Patterns
- Magic Words
- PhonicsMatch
- Word Search
- Word Bank
- Write it Right!



Children can also watch the word and letter animations and practice and explore other handwriting resources on Letter-join.



Key Stage Teaching

Early Years

For our youngest pupils, we teach short handwriting lessons on a daily basis, which will include the following:

- enhancing gross motor skills such as air-writing, pattern-making and physical activities
- exercises to develop fine motor skills such as mark-making on paper, whiteboards, sensory trays, iPads, tablets, etc.
- becoming familiar with letter shapes, their sounds, formation and vocabulary
- correct sitting position and pencil grip for handwriting



Lesson Planner Early Years – Printed letters is a supplementary Lesson Planner for schools who choose to start teaching handwriting with printed letters.

Supporting resources using a printed font include:

- all lower case letters and words
- all of the Phonics activities
- all games and activities
- all KS1 worksheets



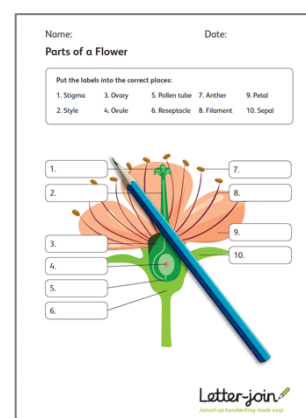
At the end of this module, children should be able to recognise and form all the printed, lowercase letters of the alphabet.

Key Stage 1: Years 1 and 2

Teaching progresses from five short, to two longer lessons per week:

- continuing with gross and fine motor skills exercises
- strengthening cursive handwriting, learning and practice
- numerals, capitals and printed letters; where and when to use, learning and practice
- KS1 SATs SPaG exercises

Lesson Planner Module 2 for Year 1 contains lessons for teaching how to write capital letters, printed letters, numbers and symbols, whilst reinforcing cursive handwriting using Letter-join's on-line and printed resources. It is divided into three sections covering:



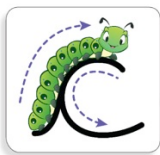
- capital letters
- printed letters
- numbers and symbols

On finishing this module, children should be confident in writing all the capital and printed letters, numbers and symbols and start to become familiar with their use.



Lesson Planner Module 3 for Year 2 includes lessons to improve letter formation and orientation of letters through regular practice and to support spelling, grammar and punctuation in readiness for KS1 SATs.

The sections in this module cover:



- letter families
- high frequency words
- joining techniques
- sequencing sentences
- dictation exercises
- times table facts
- SPaG practice for KS1 SATs



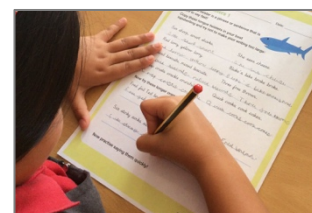
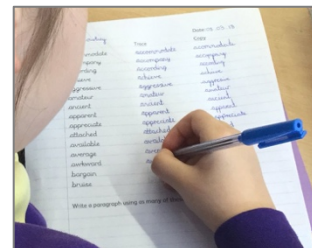
With the regular handwriting practice throughout this module, children should now be developing the fluency and speed of their writing.

Lower Key Stage 2: Years 3 and 4

Handwriting lessons will continue twice a week in Lower Key Stage 2.

Lesson Planner Module 4 for Year 3 is targeted at children in lower KS2 where pupils should be using a cursive style throughout their independent writing in all subjects, helping to refine their handwriting in line with the requirements of each lesson. This module covers topics such as dictation, double letters, number vocabulary, palindromes, tongue twisters, MFL (French), onomatopoeia, simile and statutory spellings.

Completion of Module 4 should ensure improvement in the legibility, consistency and quality of the children's handwriting through a variety of resources which link handwriting to other areas of the curriculum.



Lesson Planner Module 5 for Year 4 focuses on using handwriting practice to support other subjects in the curriculum and, at the same time, builds on fluency and consistency. This module aims to promote meaningful links with other subjects such as English, maths, science, geography, French and Spanish. Making such links enables children to apply the skills they are learning in context and also provides depth to the curriculum.

Learners will continue to build on producing fluent, consistent and legible handwriting through the regular practice offered in this module's lessons.

On concluding this module, children will have practised applying size-appropriate handwriting to all areas of the curriculum whilst maintaining fluency and legibility.

EXAMPLE

Word of the Week: precarious

Write this week's word six times:

precarious precarious precarious
precarious precarious precarious

Use a dictionary to find the definition of this week's word:

If something is precarious, it is not safe and likely to fall off or fall over.

Write some synonyms of this week's word:

insecure risky hazardous
treacherous unsafe dangerous

Write some antonyms of this week's word:

safe fixed strong
secure protected stable

Write a sentence using this week's word:

The cat was in a precarious position in the tree.
Be aware: this cliff edge is precarious.
Take care on that precarious old ladder.
The stranded climber was in a precarious situation.

Letter-join

Upper Key Stage 2: Years 5 and 6

More advanced handwriting techniques will be taught during two weekly lessons:

- reinforcing cursive handwriting across the curriculum
- form-filling/labelling using printed and capital letters
- dictation exercises promoting quick note-taking and speedy handwriting writing skills
- KS2 SATs SPaG practice

Dictation Exercises

Key Stage 2
More challenging exercises

4 small seaburnas
29.10.2003

My birthplace is
Swilling but at
seven I moved...

A shopping list, complex numbers and a longer written passage.

Key Stage 2
Traditional stories and poems.

Hansel and Gretel

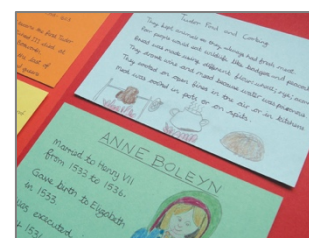
Suddenly the door opened, and an old woman came out.

Dictation exercises using extracts from traditional stories and poems.

Lesson Planner Module 6 for Year 5 continues to build on combining fluent handwriting with other subjects across the curriculum.

In this module, learners will have plenty of opportunity to develop the stamina and skills to write at length, with accurate spelling and punctuation. With Letter-join's wide range of resources they will be able to work towards producing consistently neat and well-presented handwriting in all curriculum subjects.

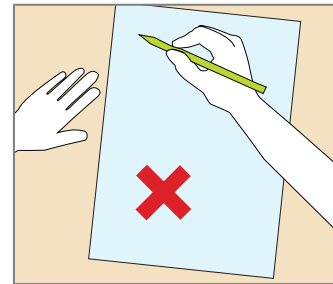
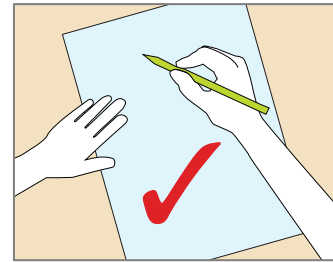
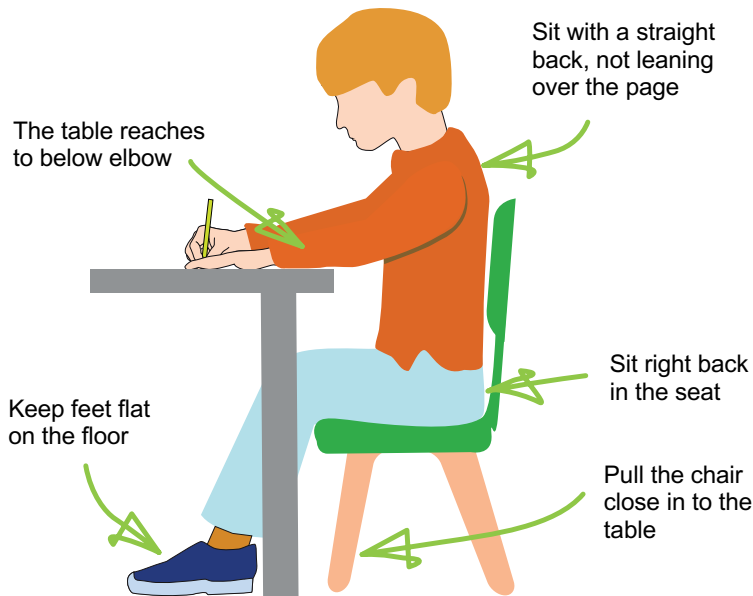
On completing this module, children should be producing cursive writing automatically, enabling them to focus on the content of their work rather than the process of writing.



Correct posture and pencil grip for handwriting

Pupils should be taught to sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly.

SITTING POSITION

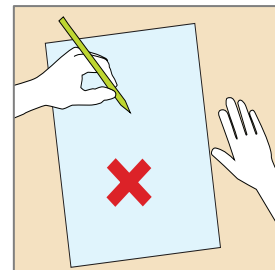
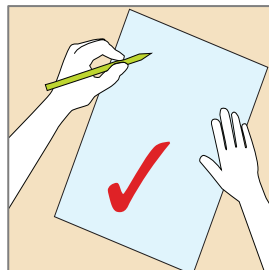
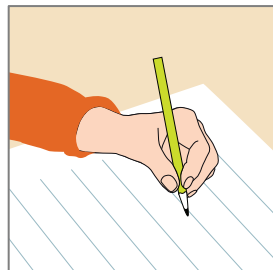
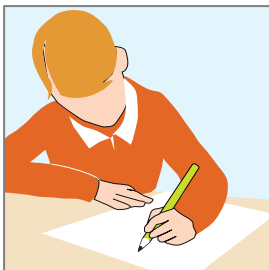


Paper position for right-handed children.

LEFT-HANDED CHILDREN

Left-handed children may find it difficult to follow the movements of right-handed teachers as they model letter formation (and vice versa). Teachers should demonstrate to left-handers on an individual or group basis.

- Left-handed pupils should sit to the left of a right-handed child so that they are not competing for space.
- Pupils should position the paper/book to their left side and slanted, as shown.
- 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.



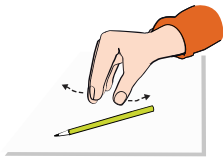
Paper position for left-handed children.

The 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. We use the Tripod Grip

Rhyme:

Right-handed pencil grip



Point away the pencil,



Pinch it near the tip,



Lift it off the table,

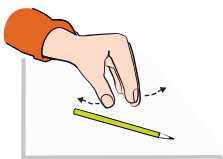


Spin it round...

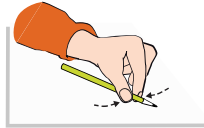


and grip.

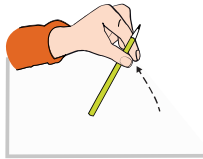
Left-handed pencil grip



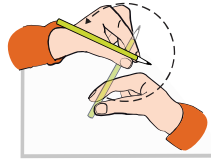
Point away the pencil,



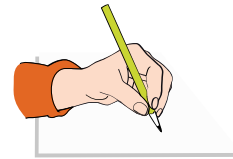
Pinch it near the tip,



Lift it off the table,

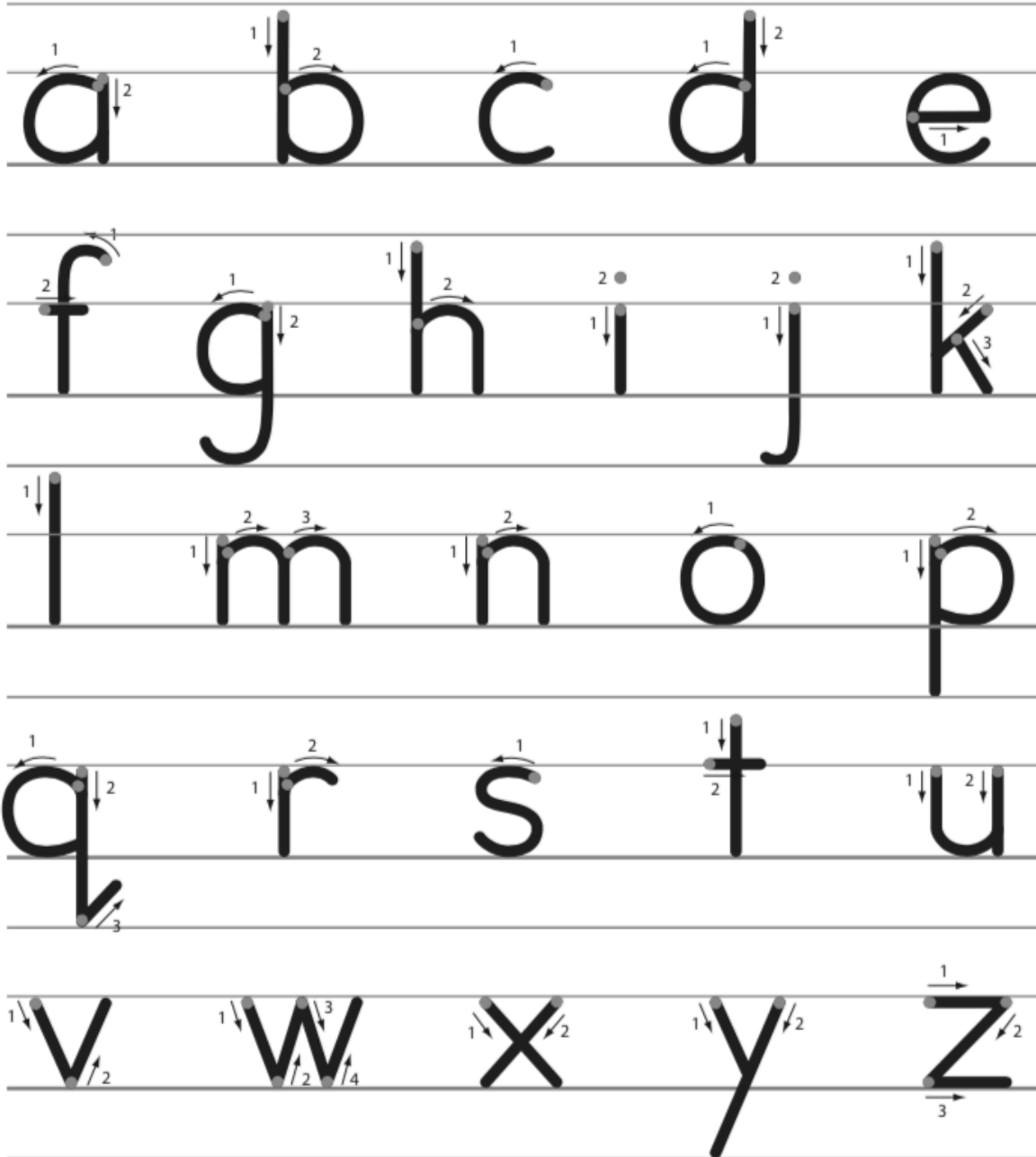


Spin it round...



and grip.

Printed Lower Case Letters



Cursive Lower Case Letters



Capital Letters

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

