



Barrowby Church of England Primary School

Handwriting Policy

The Nature of Handwriting

1. Handwriting is a fine motor skill that is taught or referred to daily. Therefore, most children should be able to achieve a legible, attractive style of handwriting e.g. letters formed correctly with consistency in shape and size; joined in a fluent cursive style.

The assessment of the content of a child's writing is often influenced by the standard of handwriting and presentation and therefore our school will place emphasis on the teaching of an appropriate handwriting style so that children will not be at a disadvantage as their work is assessed.

2. Handwriting is taught as a specific skill across the school on a regular basis. This is supported by the Nelson handwriting scheme which ensures progression across the school. There are specific focus areas throughout the school:

- EYFS: Focus on fine and gross motor skills, mark-making, correct pencil grip, and letter formation using printed letters.
- KS1: Introduction to Nelson's cursive handwriting, with emphasis on consistent size, spacing, and joining techniques.
- KS2: Development of a fluent, joined style. Children are encouraged to develop their own legible style by Year 6.

3. All children use special handwriting exercise books for discrete handwriting lessons, though handwriting is also referred to in every lesson that requires writing at length.

4. Children are taught to develop their own style of handwriting and to write in a good legible cursive style e.g.

- consistent letter shapes and sizes
- consistent use of ascenders and descenders
- presented in a joined, cursive style
- legible

5. Children with additional needs receive tailored support (e.g. pencil grips, sloped boards, fine motor interventions). EAL learners are supported with visual aids and consistent modelling.

6. Good handwriting is modelled to the children throughout the school and opportunities given to practise throughout the curriculum.

7. Teachers assess handwriting as part of writing moderation. Progress is tracked termly and shared with parents during consultations. Presentation is monitored in books and celebrated through displays and awards.

7. Review

This policy is reviewed by the Head teacher, staff and Governors in accordance with Barrowby School's Policy and Review Cycle for approval by the Full Governing Body,

every 3 years.

Last reviewed: September 2025

Next review: September 2028