

Policy Document

Aughton Christ Church C of E Primary School **HANDWRITING POLICY**



Reviewed: Sept 2021
Next Review date: Sept 2022

Aughton Christ Church C E Primary School



Handwriting Policy.

1. STATEMENT OF INTENT

Our English curriculum meets the statutory needs of the national curriculum and is designed to meet the needs of all children at Aughton Christ Church C of E Primary School.

In consultation with parents, governors, children and staff, our broad and balanced curriculum is designed to continually build on knowledge and skills whilst supporting the children's spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development. It prepares all children at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life through developing resilience, independence and confidence.

This is achieved through a well thought out holistic approach to learning, encompassing high quality outdoor provision and extended opportunities. These experiences allow children to develop a curiosity about the world around them and ask questions to deepen their own learning. Children are inspired to learn through engaging, meaningful and creative experiences which at every opportunity embrace the cultural diversity of our society. In addition to core skills and essential knowledge, children will develop an awareness and understanding of other people; their own community; the wider world and of their place within it to ensure they have opportunity to develop empathy, resilience, independence and confidence to become educated members of society.

2. MISSION STATEMENT

- To educate pupils intellectually, socially, morally, aesthetically, physically and spiritually within a school firmly based on Christian principles.
- To enable pupils to develop their talents, establishing positive and realistic goals.
- To promote Christian values within the school as exemplified by the life and teaching of Jesus Christ.
- To encourage in pupils a sense of decency, respect for others, commitment, self-reliance, responsibility and a healthy self-esteem.
- To help pupils to take their place in the community and to encourage an appreciation of the world in which they live.
- To prepare for the next stage of their education.

3. AIMS

We aim for children at Aughton Christ Church CE Primary School to leave in Year 6 with the ability to write using their own style of fast, fluent, legible and sustainable handwriting, as well as other styles of writing for specific purposes. In addition to teaching handwriting during our regular handwriting lessons, we have high expectations that what is taught and practiced in handwriting lessons will be used in all writing activities. We believe that handwriting is integral to a child's personal development and know that children's engagement and self-esteem can be improved by

their satisfaction and pride in good quality presentation

Handwriting is a taught skill that develops at different rates for different children. All of the teachers at Aughton Christ Church CE Primary School put a priority on teaching handwriting and have high expectations for handwriting across the curriculum. Our school uses ***Penpals for Handwriting*** to ensure that:

- The importance of handwriting is recognised and given appropriate time.
- The progression of handwriting is consistent across the school.
- Handwriting is acknowledged to be a whole body activity and emphasis is placed on correct posture and pencil grip for handwriting.
- Expectations of left-handed children are equal to those of right-handed children, and appropriate advice and resources are available to ensure that they learn to write with a comfortable, straight wrist.
- Handwriting is linked into grammar, punctuation and spelling in order to practice and contextualise all of the transcriptional and stylistic skills for writing.
- Children learn to self-assess their own writing and develop understanding and responsibility for improving it.
- Children learn to write in different styles for different purposes such as print for labelling a diagram, illustrated capitals letters for creating a poster, swift jottings for writing notes, making a 'best copy' for presentation and fast, fluent and legible writing across the curriculum.

Progression of skills

Penpals enables us to teach and secure the development of handwriting throughout the school:

- First, children experience the foundation of handwriting through multi-sensory activities (EYFS).
- Correct letter formation is taught, practised, applied and consolidated (EYFS /Y1).
- Joining is introduced only after correct letter formation is used automatically (Y1/Y2/Y3).
- Joins are introduced systematically and cumulatively (Y2–Y6).
- As children practice joining, they pay attention to the size, proportion and spacing of their letters and words (Y3–Y6).
- Once the joins are secure, a slope is introduced in order to support increased speed and fluency (Y5).
- Children are introduced to different ways of joining in order that they can develop their own preferred personal style (Y6).

In using *Penpals*, we ensure that our children follow the requirements and recommendations of the National Curriculum. We share the aspirations that children's handwriting should be 'sufficiently fluent and effortless for them to manage the general demands of the curriculum' and that 'problems with forming letters do not get in the way of their writing down what they want to say'.

Handwriting tools

Throughout their time in school, children use a range of tools for different purposes and styles of handwriting including:

- A wide range of tools and media for mark-making in the EYFS.
- Whiteboard pens throughout the school.
- Fingers when writing on the interactive whiteboard.
- Art supplies including coloured pens and pencils for posters, displays and artwork.
- Sharp pencils for most writing until a pen licence is awarded.
- A handwriting pen for when they sustain a good level of presentation.

Handwriting is always introduced and practised in the *Penpals* Practice Books in EYFS and in handwriting books from Y1 to Y6 and on lined paper so that children quickly learn about letter orientation including ascenders and descenders. As children's fine motor skills improve and their letter formation or joining becomes increasingly accurate, the width between the lines they write on gradually decreases.

Equality of opportunity

All of our children have equal access to handwriting lessons and to the resources available. We recognise that some children take longer to develop the necessary skills and we cater for those children by providing additional opportunities for skills development. Children who need specific fine motor or handwriting interventions are identified early and the impact of interventions is carefully monitored. Children with a physical disability are catered for, and progress is monitored, according to their individual action plans.

The Learning Environment

Staff will model the agreed handwriting style when marking children's work in exercise books and writing on the class whiteboard. This writing should be cursive.

Assessment

A uniformed handwriting style should be consistent throughout the school; this will be evident in book scrutinies.

The Role of Parents/Carers

Parents/Carers are made aware of our agreed handwriting style through the school's website and encouraged to practice this with their children at home. Children may also occasionally be given handwriting homework tasks.

Review This policy will be reviewed each academic year. It is the responsibility of the English Subject Leader lead to review and amend it.

Mrs F Chapple (English Subject Leader) To be reviewed: Sept 2022

