



Handwriting Policy
September 2025

School Vision

Our vision for [Valour Academy](#) is that all children will feel happy, safe and loved.

Intent

At Beech Hill Primary School, we recognise that handwriting is a fundamental skill that supports children's communication, creativity, and overall literacy development. Our aim is to develop legible, fluent, and confident writers who take pride in their written presentation. This policy ensures consistency, progression, and high expectations for handwriting across all year groups, beginning in the Early Years Foundation Stage and continuing through to Key Stage 2.

Implementation

Our handwriting curriculum aims to:

- Develop a consistent, legible, and fluent style of handwriting.
- Foster positive attitudes towards writing and pride in presentation.
- Support fine motor skills, hand–eye coordination, and pencil control.
- Ensure handwriting is taught explicitly, systematically, and progressively.
- Reflect the requirements of the **Early Years Foundation Stage Framework** and the **National Curriculum for English**.

Teaching and Learning

Early Years Foundation Stage (Reception)

In Reception, children are introduced to the foundations of handwriting daily through:

- **Physical development:** daily opportunities to build gross and fine motor control through play (e.g. threading, dough disco, finger gym, climbing).
- **Seating and posture:**
 - Feet flat on the floor (or stable surface).
 - Bottoms back in chairs.
 - Backs straight and relaxed.
 - Paper tilted slightly to the left (for right-handers) or right (for left-handers).
- **Pencil grip:**
 - Children are supported to develop a comfortable tripod grip (using thumb, index, and middle finger).
 - Pencil is held approximately 2–3 cm from the tip.
- **Letter formation:**
 - Taught outside of phonics daily using correct starting points and directionality.
 - Letters are formed using **lead-in flicks** from Reception onwards to prepare for joining outside of phonics lessons.

Key Stage 1 Daily handwriting sessions

Year 1 (Autumn Term)

- Reinforcement of correct seating, posture, and pencil grip.
- Continued practice of individual letters with lead-in flicks.
- Focus on size consistency, spacing, and correct formation.
- Children write on lined paper/books to support letter placement.

Year 1 (Spring Term onwards)

- Introduction of joined handwriting modelled by the teacher.
- Explicit teaching of joins: diagonal, horizontal, and special joins.
- Children encouraged to use a fully cursive style in independent writing tasks.

Year 2 (Handwriting 3 times a week)

- Continued consolidation of joins for fluency and consistency.
- Reinforcement of correct seating, posture, and pencil grip.
- Focus on developing speed without loss of legibility.
- Reinforcement of handwriting across all curriculum areas.

Key Stage 2

- Children continue to refine handwriting for legibility, speed, and personal style.
- Emphasis on fluent, joined handwriting in all written work.
- Weekly discrete handwriting lessons to maintain standards and correct habits.
- Children are encouraged to self-assess and take pride in neat presentation.
- Opportunities for using pen are introduced once children demonstrate consistent control and presentation.

Adaptations and Inclusion

Beech Hill Primary School is committed to ensuring all pupils can access handwriting successfully. Adaptations include:

- Pencil grips, writing slopes, or alternative seating to support posture and grip.
- Extra fine-motor or gross-motor support groups (e.g. "Write Dance," "Squiggle While You Wiggle," "Dough Disco").

Cross-Curricular Expectations

- Handwriting standards apply in all subjects.
- Teachers model high-quality handwriting during shared and guided writing.
- Presentation expectations are reinforced consistently across school.

Monitoring and Assessment

- Regular handwriting scrutiny as part of book looks and learning walks.
- Formative assessment through daily practice and feedback.
- Recognition of good presentation through certificates, displays, or “Writer of the Week.”

Letter joins:

Please see letter joins attached below

abcde f

ghijklm

nopqr st

uvwxyz

