



Handwriting Policy

Intent

At Barrow Hedges, we aim to teach children to write in a way that is legible, fluent and fast. This means that we have developed a style which enables the letters to be joined easily. Our aim is to raise attainment for all pupils in handwriting through a consistent approach to the teaching of handwriting throughout the school.

Implementation

At Barrow Hedges we are consistent in the way in which we join letters, i.e. it must be remembered that some letters **never** join, for example capital letters. Teachers and support staff use all opportunities to model the agreed cursive style of handwriting when writing on the board or marking work. We encourage children to use all opportunities for writing as handwriting practice, regardless of subject. At Barrow Hedges, we recognise that having a consistent 'patter' is an important part to embed letter formation, when describing the movements to form each letter, we use the following agreed vocabulary across the school.

- Long letter ladders - *Letters involving longer lines up or down (i,t,l,j,u,y)*
- One armed robot letters - *Letters that bounce back up or down (r,b,m,h,n,p)*
- Curly caterpillar letters - *Letters that involve curves (a,c,d,g,o,q,r,s)*
- Zig Zag letters - *Letters that involve sudden corners (v,w,x,z)*
- One armed robot letters - *Letters that bounce back up or down (r,b,m,h,n,p)*
- Up to the sky ascenders
- Dig underground
- Descenders
- Down to the ground
- On the grass
- Up and down
- Left and right
- Flick
- Bouncing back up or down
- Over and curl

Handwriting Heroes and Pen Licenses

In order to motivate children to improve and value handwriting, Key Stage One children work towards becoming a Handwriting Hero. Up until this point, teachers provide handwriting lines to scaffold presentation, however once a child has shown consistently high standards of handwriting, they are given a certificate, celebrated during assembly time, given a very special pencil and guidelines are taken off of their work.

The criteria for becoming a handwriting hero are as follows:

1. Always use a capital letter at the start of a sentence and for a name. Do not join your capital letters.



Handwriting Policy

2. Always use cursive letters.
3. Always join your handwriting but make sure that your teacher can read your work.
4. Leave finger spaces between your words.
5. Make sure t, l, d, h, k, b stand tall.
6. Make sure q, y, p, f, g, j, go below the line.
7. Make sure all other letters are the same size.
8. No letters round the wrong way.

In Key Stage Two, children work towards receiving their pen license. Once a child has shown that they can consistently join their handwriting, keeping their presentation skills at a high level, and maintain this in all lessons, they receive this license and are given a handwriting pen to use rather than pencil. Teachers hold the right to revoke a pen license if standards in presentation deteriorate.

Tips for Good Handwriting

- Make sure the chair and writing surface are at the correct height for the child.
- Feet should be able to touch the floor.
- Lower arm, from elbow to finger should rest comfortably on the writing surface.
- Encourage your child to sit up straight, not lean/lie on the writing surface
- Use non writing hand to steady the paper
- Put paper at slight angle
- Be aware of left handed writing and their positioning
- For tricky letters, draw the shape on child's back/palm of hand/ air write etc
- Give lots of praise

Please be aware that with the introduction of a style that maybe new to many children, they will need time to adjust and develop. Do not be worried if your child's handwriting seems to deteriorate to begin with. This is part of the process and will ultimately lead to the development of a fluent handwriting style.

Impact

At Barrow Hedges, we recognise that high standards of presentation and handwriting encourages children to take pride in their work and showcase everything that they can do in a clear and legible fashion. We know that a flexible, fluent and legible handwriting style empowers children to write with confidence and creativity. Children will also associate handwriting movement with visual letter patterns and aural phonemes will help them to learn to spell.