



Hillocks Primary and Nursery School

Policy for Handwriting

Purpose

This policy reflects the philosophy of Hillocks Primary and Nursery School in relation to the teaching of handwriting. Alongside the New Curriculum, it gives a framework which within which all governors, staff and children work together and it gives guidance on planning, teaching and assessment.

Aim

For all children to produce neat, legible handwriting with correctly formed letters.

Curriculum and Organisation

The style adopted Hillocks is based on the Penpals script (Primary Sassoon font). This is used alongside the New Curriculum which outlines the individual objectives to be covered by each age group.

The handwriting process starts in the Foundation Stage. Children are encouraged to form a pencil grip that enhances their pencil control and they are taught to form letters in a variety of ways. They focus on gross motor skills with activities such as writing with ribbons, movement through the air and PE and fine motor skills with activities such as writing in the sand, forming letters from dough and writing with a variety of utensils. In Key Stage 1 children refine their letter formation and are taught to join in Year 2.

Handwriting is taught in a variety of ways:

- Group work
- Whole class teaching (through phonics and spelling)
- Individual teaching where appropriate

Key Stage 1

In Key Stage 1, all children use pencil in books, and practise handwriting through independent and whole class activities throughout the week based on the Penpals big book and interactive materials. Children will work on whiteboards in small groups or as a whole class and skills are then transferred to a handwriting book or paper. Current high frequency words, topic words and phonemes are used as a focus for handwriting practise. A variety of different media are used throughout Key Stage 1:

- Painting
- Felt tips
- White boards
- Handwriting books
- Joining patterns

Handwriting is taught regularly in the Foundation Stage (for a short time on a daily basis through phonics and daily carousel activities) and within session time in KS1 however it is also part of continuous teaching and learning.

Key Stage 2

In Key Stage 2, children begin to use black pens. Print is encouraged where appropriate for labels etc.

Handwriting is taught two or three times a week in Lower Key Stage 2 and as appropriate in Upper Key Stage 2.

General

When marking children's work, teachers adopt the style in which the children are taught to write when writing comments in books. This also applies to teachers writing on the whiteboard

Display writing throughout the school will include a variety of fonts and styles to enable children to experience more than one style of writing. These will include print, the taught handwriting style and computer-generated writing.

January 2017