



## The Whiteoak Academies

### Handwriting Policy

April 2026

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At The Whiteoak Academies we recognise that handwriting is a fundamental skill that supports children in communicating their ideas clearly, confidently and effectively. We use Unlocking Handwriting which aligns with both our systematic synthetic phonics scheme (Unlocking Letters and Sounds) and our spelling scheme (Unlocking Spelling). We use Unlocking's on-line handwriting lessons and resources as the basis of our handwriting programme as these cover all of the requirements of the 2014 National Curriculum.

#### Objective

Across our schools we are committed to developing a consistent, legible and fluent handwriting style for all pupils, enabling them to take pride in their work across the curriculum. Through regular practice, with high expectations, we aim to ensure that every child develops the skills needed to write with accuracy, automaticity and increasing independence. Our intention is to ensure that handwriting becomes an automatic skill that does not hinder pupils' creativity or flow of thought.

*a b c d e f g h i j k l m n*

*o p q r s t u v w x y z*

*Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk*

*Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz*

Our chosen letter formation. Print font and cursive style.

## Aims:

- To develop a neat, legible, speedy handwriting style using continuous cursive letters, which leads to producing letters and words automatically in independent writing.
- To establish and maintain high expectations for the presentation of written work.
- For pupils to understand, by the end of Year 6, the importance of neat presentation and the need for different letterforms (cursive, printed or capital letters) to help communicate meaning clearly.



## Expectations

All teaching staff are encouraged to model the cursive style in all their handwriting, whether on whiteboards, displays or in pupils' books. When modelling in EYFS and Year 1, age-appropriate formation should be used by staff. This may also be the case further up the school with children working below age related expectations.

Pupils should experience coherence and continuity in the learning and teaching of handwriting across all school years and be encouraged to take pride in the presentation of their work. Our objective is to help pupils enjoy learning and developing their handwriting with a sense of achievement and pride.

## Handwriting frequency

Handwriting is a cross-curricular task and will be taken into consideration during all lessons. Formal teaching of handwriting will be carried out regularly following the progression of the scheme to ensure Key Stage targets are met.

EYFS	1 taught objective a week and daily practice.
Year 1	2 times a week
Year 2	2/3 times a week
Year 3 & 4	2 times per week
Year 5 & 6	1 time per week

## Pens and pencils

Children will start handwriting using a soft pencil. From Year 3 onwards, teachers will use their discretion to establish the most appropriate tool for writing on an individual basis taking in to account the needs of the pupil and the task at hand.

## **Inclusion**

For children who experience handwriting difficulties due to fine motor development, including those who are left-handed and those with special educational needs, the appropriate additional support will be put into place. Unlocking's lessons include scaffolds and challenges for extra support and application. These include the following:

- Enlarged version of resources.
- Use of worksheets instead of copying from the board.
- Securing objectives from a previous year group.
- Fine or gross motor skills are developed through carefully selected tasks.
- Some children will take home handwriting resources to practise at home. This will be in consultation with parents.