



## How can I help with handwriting?

### **Make it fun!**

Importantly, any extra handwriting work that you complete with your child needs to be fun. If it isn't fun, handwriting neatly can turn into an unpleasant chore! Presenting work neatly for a purpose, such as a thank you letter or party invitation, is also really important. Here at ~~Great Horwood~~ we love ~~to see~~ children to take a pride in their work!

### **How should my child sit?**

The child's chair and table should be at a comfortable height. Children should be encouraged to sit up straight and not to slouch. Thighs should be horizontal and feet flat on the floor. There should be plenty of light.

### **What if my child's grip is unusual?**

We encourage children to use a tripod grip, as this is generally accepted as the most efficient. It should be held lightly between the thumb and forefinger, about 3cm from the point. The middle finger provides additional support. However, if your child uses an unusual grip but writes neatly, is comfortable and doesn't grow tired quickly, then there is no need to change the grip!

### **Infants and Key Stage 1 (but fun for all!)**

Via fun activities, we aim to build control skills in younger children. Bead threading, colouring, tracing, dot to dot, and pattern copying are encouraged. Using a pencil to form recognisable letters with a comfortable and efficient pencil grip is important. Children are then encouraged to form words, with a finger space in-between! When children are ready, they are taught to join their handwriting using the 'Nelson' style.

### **Key Stage 2 (and possibly Key Stage 1)**

Children go on to work on sizing their letters consistently and joining their handwriting neatly. Many children seem keen to print their handwriting later on in Key Stage 2, but we are very keen that children maintain the good work they have begun with joining, developing a neat and efficient style.

### How to hold a pen and how to position the paper

The diagrams below give indications of how to hold a pen and the correct positioning of paper.

Right hand



Left hand



Right hand



Left hand



### **What if my child is left handed?**

It is often helpful to find an adult who is left-handed to assist if your child has problems with pen hold or the position of the paper. Awkward or unusual positions often work, and it is not necessarily correct to change these.

### **Link to spellings**

Research has confirmed the natural link between spelling and handwriting. Handwriting can be used to help your child with their mastery of common spelling rules and develop both a visual and a motor memory of spelling patterns.

### **What sort of pens or pencils should my child use?**

At school, children use pen in their exercise books as soon as teachers think that they are ready. We encourage children to use fibre tipped style pens rather than Biro. Children are encouraged to bring in their own pens to use in school if they wish.



The Nelson handwriting style used:

*The joined style*

*The quick brown fox jumps over  
the lazy dog.*