

# Wrigton Church of England Primary School

*'Cherish and nurture, flourish and aspire'*

## Handwriting Policy

This handwriting policy should be taken as part of the overall strategy of the school and operated within the context of our vision, aims and values as a Church of England school.

### Reasons for initiating the policy:

- To ensure that the teaching of handwriting at Wrigton C of E Primary school meets the requirements of the National Curriculum;
- To inform new members of staff, parents and governors of the school's approach to handwriting education.

At Wrigton, we aim to develop children's enjoyment of and ability to write for a wide range of purposes. We recognise that clear, legible handwriting allows the content of the work to be appreciated and frees the writer to focus on the task. Good presentation skills also encourage children to take pride in their work and there are links between fluent, joined handwriting and success in spelling.

### Our aims are:

- To model good handwriting/ presentation;
- To teach the correct formation/ joins following the Nelson handwriting scheme;
- To teach suitable presentation styles for different tasks;
- To provide for the needs of both left and right handed children.

### Teaching and Learning Styles

At Wrigton, we believe that the correct letter formation and joins need to be taught. This begins by linking the letter shapes to sounds with our youngest children and is developed throughout the school to Year 6.

We recognise that our children will develop pencil control skills at different rates and seek to support them at each stage.

Each teacher links the teaching of handwriting to phonics/spelling patterns, but standards of handwriting/ presentation are maintained throughout the curriculum.

Whilst presentation and handwriting are important and desirable, work should never be corrected to the extent that children do not want to write.

We recognise that each teacher needs to set the best possible example and take pride in their work to convey the right attitude and standard for our children. Therefore we, as teachers, strive to model Nelson handwriting at all times. Although we use ICT to support our teaching, we recognise the importance of clear, handwritten signs about the school as well.

## Resources

We use the Nelson Handwriting scheme. Each class has the appropriate books and there are photocopiable sheets to support this, but we also strive to promote 'real life' writing. Each class also has a set of handwriting/vocabulary extension cards.

Children are encouraged to use sharp pencils, and sharpeners are available in class.

Pencil/pen toppers and 'gimmicky' pens/pencils are not encouraged as these can affect handwriting.

Special handwriting pencils / grips are provided for children, as appropriate.

School provides handwriting pens which children are 'issued' with as they become ready for this not at a set age/year group.

## Assessment and Recording:

Teachers make on-going assessments of children's handwriting during teaching and when marking work. This will then feed back into teaching.

If children are struggling with their handwriting, children will receive extra support as appropriate. This may take the form of group or individual interventions, specific handwriting targets, ILP targets, additional homework or personalised resources.

Children are also encouraged to assess their own writing in line with (our marking / assessment policy).

Handwriting is assessed in line with national curriculum age-related expectations. (ARE)

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