



## Nelson Handwriting at Sacred Heart

Updated September 2020

At Sacred Heart we use Nelson Handwriting to teach children how to develop a fluent, legible style of handwriting. Capital and lower case letters should be used appropriately and the letter size should be consistent. It is paramount that we provide all children the opportunities to develop, practise and perfect skills and provide targeted support to any child experiencing difficulty.

The teaching of handwriting should be taught a minimum of 3 times a week for 15 minutes. It is important that teachers and LSA's model the Nelson font to the children and explicitly teach letter formation and joins in each of these sessions. The children should practise their handwriting in the back of their English books. Teachers and LSA's should ensure that the correct any misconceptions on the spot during the session to ensure accuracy of formation and joins. Please see the joining sets below.

### The joining sets

#### Set 1

a c d e h i k l m  
n s t u

Twelve letters with exit flicks plus s.

#### Set 2

a c d e g i j m n o  
p q r s u v w x y

Nineteen letters which start at the top of the x-height.

#### Set 3

b f h k l t

Six letters which start at the top of the ascender.

#### Set 4

f o r v w

Five letters which finish at the top of the x-height.

### The break letters

b g j p q x y z

Eight letters after which no join is made. Joins are not made to or from the letter z.

Expectations for all children;

Teachers and Teaching assistants should:

- Have high expectations; valuing work that is the child's best effort and offering encouragement and support when knowing they can better.
- Provide opportunities for children to practise taught skills with additional resources and materials that can be used in school and at home.
- Model how to hold a pencil correctly.
- Reinforce how to form and join letters – using a range of strategies and materials to support.
- Monitor children's progress through observation and providing on the spot feedback to correct misconceptions.
- Implement intervention support for those children who are unable to form letters and numbers correctly.
- Encourage children to assume a correct sitting position in order to write.
- Model good handwriting on the board, displays and teaching materials where possible.
- Allow children with very poor fine motor skills to print and not make joins until letter formation has been achieved.
- Reward good handwriting/improvement/effort by displaying it within classroom. Provide children with rewards special pencil/pen or certificate.

Children should:

- Take pride in their work.
- Learn which letters join to others and which do not (KS1)
- Be able to join letters appropriately (KS1)
- Enhance speed and fluency in order to develop a legible individual style (KS2)
- Demonstrate correct letter formation and joins learnt in all handwriting across the curriculum (KS1 and KS2)
- Evaluate their own and others' writing. (KS1 and KS2)