



Handwriting Policy

This policy was agreed in Jan 2026 and will be reviewed in Jan 2028

Chair of Governors Neil Roden

Date Jan 2026

Headteacher Kate Gemmell

Date Jan 2028

Across The Peak Federation, we believe handwriting is a skill which, like reading and spelling, affects written communication across the whole curriculum. We nurture handwriting skills from an early age because children must be able to write with increasing ease, speed and legibility. We also believe that teaching handwriting skills regularly and systematically throughout the school ignites pupils' pride in their written work across the curriculum and beyond school.

By the end of Key Stage 2, all pupils should have the ability to produce fluent, legible and, eventually, speedy joined-up handwriting, and to understand the different forms of handwriting used for different purposes. Our intention is to make handwriting an automatic process that does not interfere with creative and mental thinking.

This policy was written with the National Curriculum (2014) and The Writing Framework (2025) in mind, which clearly state that teaching handwriting is a statutory requirement in Primary Schools from EYFS onwards.

Intent

- To develop a neat, legible, speedy handwriting style using a print font, then a cursive font leading to a continuous join. To produce 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 letter forms (cursive, printed or capital letters) to help communicate meaning clearly.
- To help pupils enjoy learning and developing their handwriting with a sense of achievement and pride.

Implementation

- All teaching staff are encouraged to model the correct handwriting style for the children in their class, in all their handwriting, whether on whiteboards, working displays or in pupils' books.
- 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.
- Children should receive regular formal handwriting lessons each week following the Teach Handwriting scheme.
- All children should have a handwriting book. Initially, children will use handwriting lines to support them until they are able to progress to lined paper.
- Once children have developed a proficient handwriting style they will be able to use a pen in class.
- At Bamford Primary School, children are taught handwriting using Teach Handwriting.
- At Grindleford Primary School, children are taught handwriting using an adapted version of Achieving Excellence in Handwriting.

Impact

EYFS

- Children will develop their gross and fine motor skills.
- Children will form numbers and lowercase letters in the correct orientation
- They will begin to use spacing between words

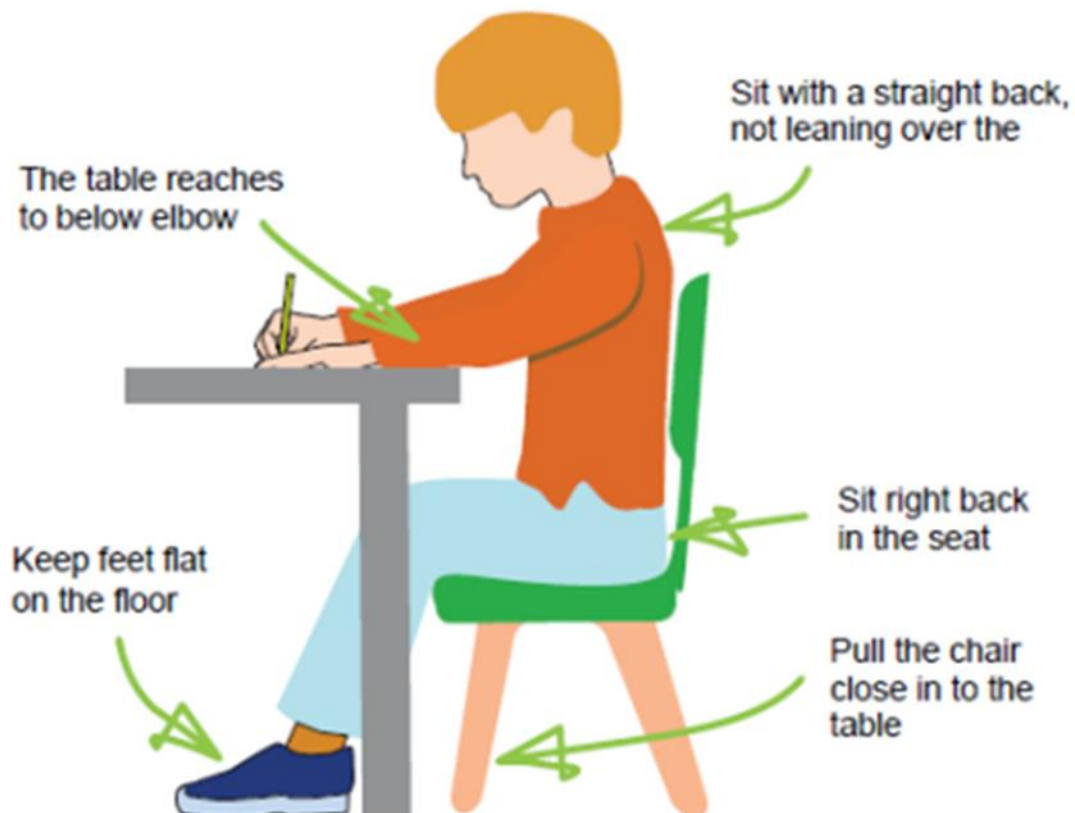
Key Stage One

- Children will form capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower-case letters.
- They will use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters
- Some children will use the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join some letters
- Some children will start to use the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters

Key Stage Two

- Children will maintain legibility and fluency in joined handwriting when writing at speed

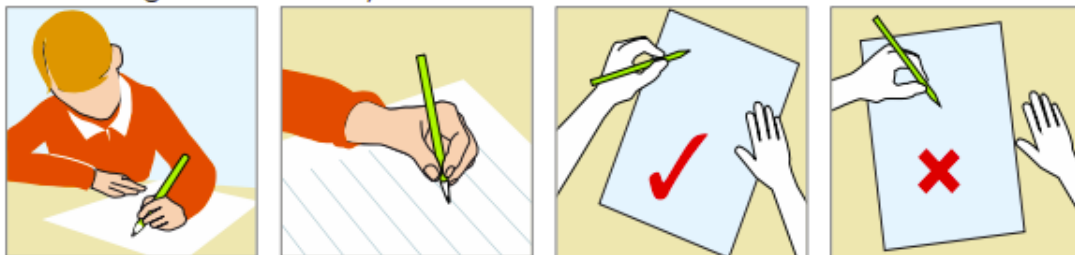
SITTING POSITION



Left-handed children

Left-handed children may find it difficult to follow the movements of right-handed teachers as they model letter formation (and vice versa). Teachers should demonstrate to left-handers on an individual or group basis.

- Left-handed pupils should sit to the left of a right-handed child so that they are not competing for space.
- Pupils should position the paper/book to their left side and slanted, as shown.
- Pencils should not be held too close to the point as this can interrupt pupils' line of vision.
- Extra practice with left-to-right exercises may be necessary before pupils write left-to-right automatically.

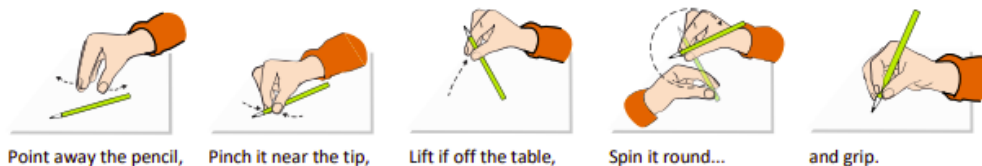


Paper position for left-handed children.

The Tripod Pencil Grip

Both right and left handed children should be encouraged to use the tripod grip which allows the pen/pencil to be held securely whilst allowing controlled movements of the pen/pencil nib. We use the Tripod Grip Rhyme:

Right-handed pencil grip



Point away the pencil,

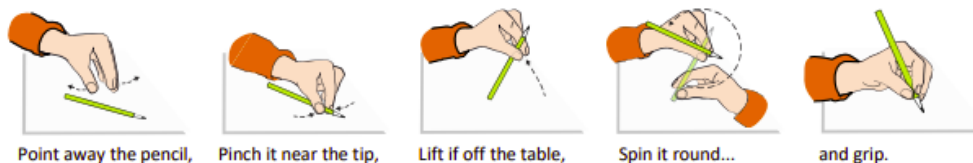
Pinch it near the tip,

Lift it off the table,

Spin it round...

and grip.

Left-handed pencil grip



Point away the pencil,

Pinch it near the tip,

Lift it off the table,

Spin it round...

and grip.
