

# Handwriting



ST. NORBERT'S  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



St Thérèse  
of Lisieux

Catholic Multi Academy Trust

## Parent Pocket Guide



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## Handwriting

We currently use and teach the cursive handwriting style throughout the school. This style focuses on developing children's letter formation, presentation skills and fluency of writing. We feel a consistent approach, that supports the teaching of handwriting, will assist this development. This singular approach enables us to have a consistent pattern and focus on the teaching of handwriting across the school.

Children are encouraged to produce a neat, fluent and legible style of handwriting. The style of handwriting across the school will gradually change, and teachers and teaching assistants will model the joins to those children who need this input. Children in younger year groups can focus on mark making and a range of writing skills and enjoyment focusing on pre-cursive formations.

Even in this technological, computer-literate age, good handwriting remains fundamental to our children's educational achievement. Once in Year 5 and 6 when pupils demonstrate clear, cursive joined handwriting they will be awarded their handwriting licence.

### 5 Stages of Basic Organisational Structure of Handwriting

1. Readiness for handwriting; gross and fine motor skills leading to pattern and letter formation (EYFS, 3-5yrs)
2. Beginning to join using pre-cursive (KS1, 5-7yrs)
3. Securing the cursive joins (KS1&LKS2, 5-9yrs)
4. Practising speed and fluency (KS2, 7-9yrs)
5. Presentational Skills (UPKS2 10-11yrs)



## HOW CAN I HELP?

**First of all** you can encourage your child to hold their pen/pencil correctly; thumb and forefinger gripping the pencil and middle finger supporting.

**Secondly** make it fun!

Below are examples of activities that you could do with your child as appropriate to their age and ability:

- Air writing (imaginary letters or words in the air)
- Writing on a partner's back (partner feels for the correct pattern in letters or words)
- Sand writing (letters or words in sand or loose dirt)
- Paint writing (on an easel or outside on fences or playground using water)
- Leaf writing (shuffle feet in fallen leaves to make letters or words)
- Chalk writing
- Tracing letters/words written on paper
- Copying letters/words written on paper
- Independently translating printed text into cursive handwriting script.

