



## Handwriting at Murdishaw West

This guide is to explain why and how we teach handwriting at Murdishaw West Primary School. It also includes ideas on ways in which you can help to develop your child's handwriting.

At Murdishaw West, our aim is that pupils will be supported to develop a handwriting style which is clear, joined and fluid. Inevitably some will be neater than others, but each child can acquire a consistent and fluent style.

Although there are many opportunities to practise handwriting across the curriculum, we will also provide regular lessons for teaching and revising these skills. The frequency and length of these lessons will vary according to the age and competence of the children.

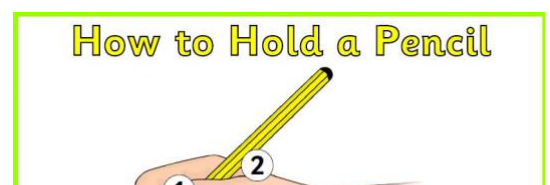
Handwriting is taught so it is in line with Essential Letters and Sounds rhymes. Once children are ready to join their handwriting, we use the Debbie Hepplewhite pattern and resources.

Good handwriting is an essential skill in the quest to spell and write fluently, confidently and competently.

For children to achieve better than expected standard in the writing assessments at the end of Year 6, their handwriting must be joined.

It is important that children hold their pencil correctly and ensure their posture is correct

### **Pencil hold**



- Pencil held between finger and thumb
- Middle finger provides extra support

### **Posture**

- Feet flat on the floor
- Head up, not resting on the desk or hand
- Paper at the correct angle
- Spare hand steadies the paper

It is important that teachers model correct pencil grip, how to sit at the table ready to write, correct letter formation, writing on the line and finger spaces between words. Teachers must also address incorrect pencil grip and handwriting misconceptions as they appear throughout the day.



## **Progression from year R – Year 6**

### **Reception and Year 1**

We begin at school with letters being written separately (not joined up yet). We ensure we use the ELS letter rhymes to support learning of letter formation. Full information about this can be found through the ELS programme.

### **Year 2**

The main aim this year is for the children to become fluent and develop an automatic style.

### **Year 3**

Children will refine their handwriting and make sure that the size and proportions of all letters and the spaces between letters and words are consistent. When children are forming letters correctly, they are taught how to join their handwriting using the Debbie Hepplewhite patten and formation.

### **Year 4/5/6**

By this stage children should be secure at joining and able to use joined up writing for most of their work. Children will be experimenting with slopes and will have a more mature and comfortable style. Once children are producing neat handwriting, they can use a black pen.

## **How can parents help their child?**



- Have a small selection of handwriting materials readily available at home.
- Encourage your child to write on a line, even if they have to draw it themselves
- Encourage your child to join his/her writing in any work brought home

Let handwriting play a part in your family's daily life, for example:

- ✓ making lists and labels
- ✓ keeping a family diary
- ✓ leaving notes for each other in busy households

- ✓ keeping in touch with distant friends and relatives
- ✓ designing and making home-made notepads and greetings cards.
- Many children like to do their homework lying on the floor, but don't let them! Do your best to provide somewhere where your child can work, the end of the kitchen table is perfect!
- Praise, praise, praise!

## ELS - Handwriting Rhymes

	Swerve around the snake		Around the ostrich's body		Down the long ladder
	Around the head, down the body		Curl around the camel's back		Swoop down the tentacles and dot the head
	Down her body and cross her shoulders		Down the body, up the arm, down the leg		Down the tongue, up the tongue
	Down his body, around his face		Around the head and down the trunk		Hop to the top, land and hop, land and hop
	Down her body, spot her idea		Under the umbrella and down to the tip		Criss-cross the kiss
	Down the bird and over the nest		Down her body, up over the arm		Under the hull and down to the anchor
	Meerkat, mound, mound		From his head to his feet, up and over his back		Zig and zag
	Over his back and around the tail, up his neck and down to his feet		Down the person and around the wheel		Around the feather and down the pen
	Start at his ear, around the face and down the beard		Over the ear, down to the tail and across the jaw		

# The Alphabet

a b c d e f g h i j k l m

n o p q r s t u v w x y z

a b c d e f g h i j k l m

n o p q r s t u v w x y z

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

A B C D E F G H I J K L M

N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z