



St Paschal Baylon
Catholic Primary School



Following In The Footsteps Of Christ

St Paschal Baylon Handwriting Policy

Handwriting

At St Paschal Baylon School, we believe that it is important for the children to develop a fluent, legible handwriting style. To support this we have introduced the Nelson handwriting scheme in the school. This scheme teaches a cursive handwriting style through workbooks, text books and computer discs. These discs are stored on the school shared drive.

How will handwriting be taught?

Handwriting is taught discretely by the class teacher or the TA in heavily supported sessions. Only when the letter join has been taught, can it be practised independently at home and school. Children are discouraged from forming writing with incorrect movements, even if they manage to achieve results that appear satisfactory.

EYFS

- When the children start school they are introduced to lots of activities to develop their fine motor control and develop their hand and arm muscles. These activities are taught in guided teacher led sessions and there is a 'funky fingers' area in the continuous provision.
- Children are taught how to write the letters through the Read, Write, Inc scheme and memorise phrases to help them remember the letter formations.
- As the letters are being introduced the children are taught the Nelson handwriting scheme in small groups. They practise their letter formation in workbooks 1-4 and are given opportunity to consolidate their learning in the continuous provision.
- Children are taught rhymes and relaxations to prepare the children to write. They are guided on pen grip and posture.

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- Children are taught how to write all upper case and lower case letters and numbers to 0-9.
- Handwriting pencils are used and left handed children are identified.
- Attention is given to pencil grips and body position.
- The school has made the decision to teach the traditional **I**, which is different from the Nelson handwriting scheme.

Year 1

- In Y1 the children are introduced to workbooks 5 and 6.
- In these books they are introduced to the first four handwriting joins.
- The children consolidate their learning by practising their letter formation in handwriting exercise books with guidelines 6mm/21mm apart.

Year 2

- As the children move into Y2 they have opportunity to revise and practise the four joins.
- The children work through a Developing Skills text book and practise the tasks in handwriting books with guidelines 6mm/21mm apart.
- Towards the end of Year 2, we aim for children to be beginning to write in a cursive style in their independent writing.

Years 3-6

- From Years 3-6 the children are continued to be taught through Nelson handwriting textbooks and practice their

letter formation in exercise books with lines 203/165mm apart.

- Children should be using a cursive handwriting style for all of their writing.
- In Y3 children are introduced to writing in pen during the handwriting lesson.
- Children in Y3 can begin to use pens in their own work once they have gained their pen license.
- The handwriting pens used will be manuscript pens.

When will handwriting be taught?

- Handwriting will be taught in guided sessions and whole class lessons

How will we promote handwriting in the school?

- The Nelson handwriting scheme will be modelled by the teachers in their own writing and will be displayed around the school.
- The Nelson pre-cursive font will be used for all correspondence in the school.
- The children with the best handwriting of the week are awarded with a handwriting certificate on a Friday.

How will handwriting be monitored?

- The teaching of handwriting will be reviewed each term at a staff meeting.
- Samples of work will be collected and filed in a portfolio of evidence.

Jane Kinsella March 2017

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