



**Handwriting
at
Floreat Wandsworth
Primary School**



Handwriting Introduction

- In recent years, modern technology has dramatically changed the way we communicate through writing. However, despite the increased use of computers for writing, the skill of handwriting remains important in education, employment and in everyday life. **An excellent standard of handwriting will always be a high priority for pupils at Floreat Wandsworth.**
- Time devoted to the teaching and learning of letter formation in the early years will pay off. Legible writing that can be produced comfortably, at speed and with little conscious effort allows a child to attend to the higher-level aspects of writing composition and content. This is important when assessments are based on written work, particularly in time-limited written examinations, which remain a major form of assessment for many formal qualifications.
- Without fast and legible handwriting, pupils may miss out on learning opportunities and under-achieve academically.



Handwriting Expectations

- Outstanding handwriting is modelled and taught throughout the school (see slide 4)
- **Pre-writing activities** are modelled in Nursery/Reception (examples on slide 5)
- **Perfect Pencil Grip** is taught explicitly from Nursery/Reception (see slide 6)
- **Perfect Posture** is taught explicitly from Nursery/Reception (see slide 7)
- **Nelson Pre Cursive** is used when printing work for pupils when possible.
- Staff must model an excellent standard of handwriting.
- **Handwriting Cards** are displayed around the school (see slide 8 & 9)
- Numbers are included in our handwriting expectations (see slide 8)
- There should be constant, explicit reference and teaching of orientation and letter size and position.
- If children copy the teacher's model they should always know that it will be the '**best that they can be**'.

Handwriting Expectations by Year Group

Year Group & Writing Book set up	Standard	Focus on...
Nursery - single lines	Most full time pupils will be able to form most of their letters correctly by the end of the year.	Pencil grip Letter orientation and size
Reception - single lines then wide tramlines	Most pupils will be able to... - form their letters correctly by the end of the year - write neatly on the tramlines - join digraphs e.g th and sh	Pencil grip and posture Letter orientation and size Writing on the line / moving onto writing on tramlines
Year 1 - wide or narrow tramlines	Most pupils will be able to... - write neatly in different situations e.g. writing down observations during a science experiment - Self correct and know where to improve on their handwriting - read their work without help	Writing neatly within the tramlines Descenders and ascenders
Year 2 - narrow tramlines	Handwriting will be of a consistently high standard. Most pupils will be able to write legibly (and at speed) for their KS1 assessments. Tramlines removed by the end of the year	Writing at speed
Year 3 - normal exercise book lines	All pupils will be joining their handwriting by the end of the year.	Joining the letters
Year 4 - normal exercise book lines	Most pupils would have developed their own style but the clarity of the joined up handwriting and the high standards of presentation still remain.	
Year 5 - normal exercise book lines	Pupils present their written work at a very high standard using different styles of presentation e.g. 'Big Write' methods for display purposes, note taking, formal assessments, posters, wider curriculum essays	Awarding Pen Licenses
Year 6 - normal exercise book lines		Awarding Pen Licenses Writing legibly at speed Developing their own style

Pre-writing activities



Bead
stringing/lacing



Squirt bottles



Writing on
easels or vertical
surface



Squeeze
sponges



Popping bubble
wrap



Play dough or
silly putty



Practice screw
and unscrew lids



Use
tongs/tweezers
to pick up
blocks/small
objects



Putting coins
into piggy banks



Clothes pegs pinching



Finger
plays/string
games

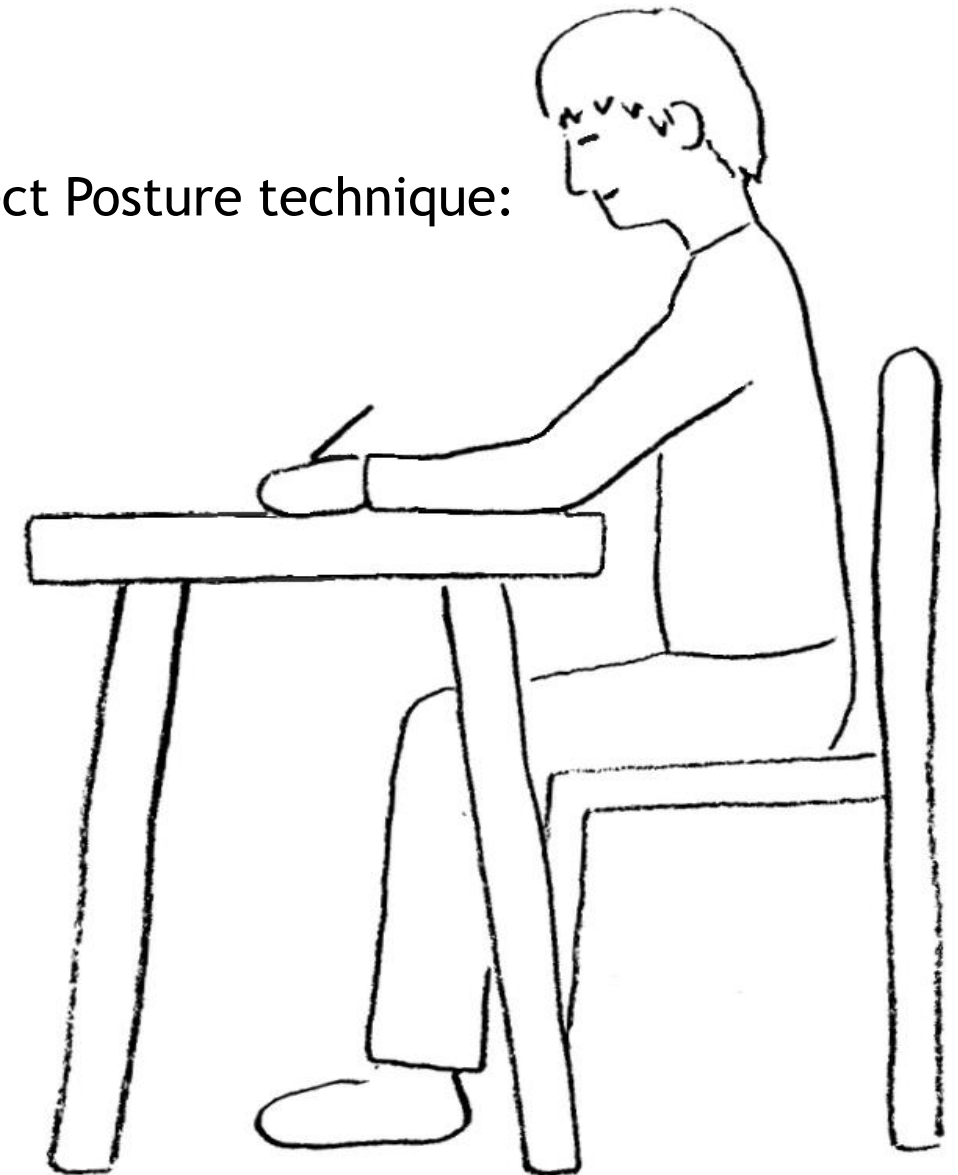


Pouring from
small pitcher to
specific level in
clear glass

Perfect Posture

We ensure that pupils learn how to write using our Perfect Posture technique:

- feet flat on the floor
- resting hand on the book/desk
- chair tucked in
- the book can be placed at an angle if required



Perfect Pencil Grip

This is the grip some children find more comfortable to start with in Nursery and Reception.

This is the grip we encourage and promote at Floreat Wandsworth.

X = eliminating these habits early on leads to rapid progress in writing!

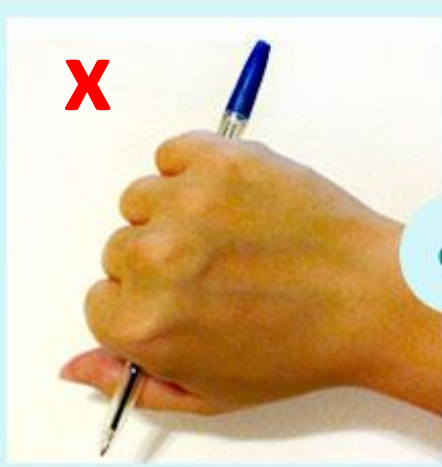
X



FISTED GRIP

Children often hold their writing tool like a dagger, scribbling using their whole arm.

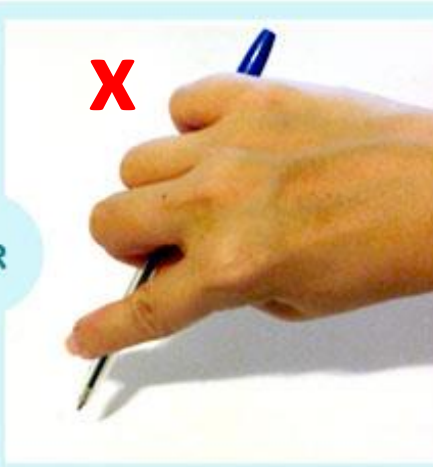
X



DIGITAL PRONATE GRIP

All fingers are holding the writing tool but the wrist is turned so that the palm is facing down towards the page. Movement now comes mostly from the elbow. Children should start being able to copy a horizontal, vertical and circular line.

X



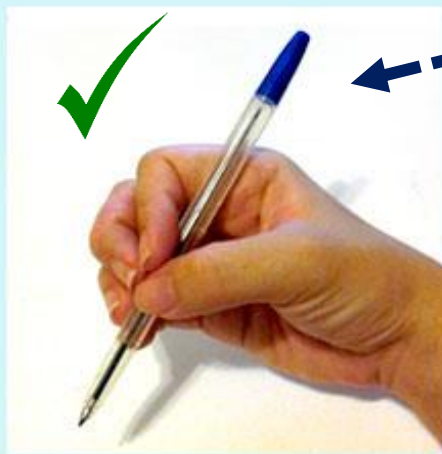
OR

X



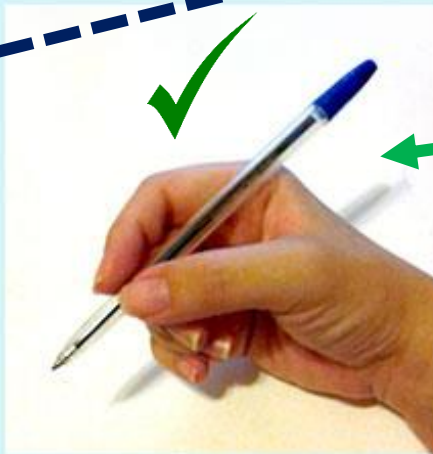
4 FINGER GRIP

4 fingers are held on the writing tool. Movement is mostly from the wrist and the hand and fingers move as one.



STATIC TRIPOD GRIP

Nursery & Reception
This is a 3 finger grasp, where the thumb, index finger and middle finger work as one unit.



DYNAMIC TRIPOD GRIP

All children by the end of Reception.
Using only 3 fingers to hold the writing tool. This is the ideal grip to help move the pencil efficiently, accurately.

Handwriting Card

Pupils will be taught the letter formation from **sets 1 to 4** (top right). This may not always be possible e.g. in Nursery and Reception pupils may be introduced to letters at different times.

Descenders do not join to other letters (g,j,q,p,y). f joins from the middle.

Some pupils may naturally join some letters such as b,x,z,p and this may happen from around Year 4 upwards. Teachers are not required to correct this unless the pupil has issues with reading and editing their writing.

c o a d g q se (set 1)
l t i j u y f (set 2)
r n m h b p k (set 3)
v w z x (set 4)

break letters : b g j p q x y z

Joining groups :

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

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

3 b f h k l t

4 f o r v w

1 → 2

1 → 3

4 → 2

4 → 3