ST EDWARD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
Handwriting Policy

Head Teacher:  Mrs S Wakefield
Lead Person: Megan Underhill
Agreed by LGB on: 03.10.2018
Due for next review: October 2021

School Mission Statement

Achieve in God's Love.
St Edward's Catholic Primary School is at the heart of a community rooted in its core values. Our children, by their actions, grow in the image of God.
Aims

As a school our aims in teaching handwriting are that the pupils will:

- Experience coherence and continuity in learning and teaching of handwriting across the School.
- Develop a recognition and appreciation of pattern and line.
- Understand the importance of clear and neat presentation in order to communicate meaning clearly.
- Take pride in the presentation of their work and therefore study handwriting with a sense of enjoyment and achievement.
- Be supported in developing correct spelling quickly through a multi-sensory approach to handwriting.
- Be able to write quickly to aid expressing themselves creatively and imaginatively across the curriculum and for a range of purposes.
- Use their skills with confidence in real life situations.
- Develop a fluent, cursive, joined handwriting style by Year Two.

EYFS

During their Reception year, the children are given a wide range of opportunities to develop an understanding that writing conveys meaning, e.g. books, story-telling, signs, labels etc.

Children experience a wide range of handwriting-related skills, e.g. letter and number formation in sand trays, through tracing, use of ribbons, with chalk, felt tips, pencils, crayons, writing over and under teacher models in various forms, word building with magnetic letters and pattern making in various media.

Teaching follows the ‘St Edward’s Handwriting Sequence’. Children are taught cursive script from entry to prepare them for joining letters later on.

Year 1

Children have a daily handwriting lesson based on ‘The St Edward’s Handwriting Sequence’ and will write in a wide variety of activities, e.g. writing in books, multi-sensory approaches and through phonic work. Wide-lined exercise books and standard-size pencils are used for most children.

Teaching follows on from that taught in Reception with some revision of what has already been taught. At this stage, more confident children will be encouraged to start joining their letters.

Year 2

Handwriting practise takes place daily following the sequence. This encourages a consistent approach across the curriculum. In addition, handwriting is often practised through the teaching and learning of phonics. Children are encouraged to use joined-up handwriting in their daily work and it is expected that most children will be joining their letters by the end of the year. Children are encouraged to take pride in the presentation of their work.
Key Stage 2

Handwriting practice takes place daily across KS2 following the handwriting sequence. Teaching staff have high expectations of handwriting and children are encouraged to present all of their work using their best handwriting.

From Year 2 onwards, where children consistently write using fluent, neat cursive handwriting, they will be allowed to use a blue handwriting pen. However, it is the responsibility of all staff working with children to ensure that standards of writing are consistent across all books and expectations are being met. If a child’s handwriting slips from the required standard, they keep their handwriting pen, but need further support from their class teacher.

It is expected that pencil still be used for Maths and some Science work where appropriate.

Inclusion

Intervention programmes will be put in place for children experiencing difficulty with their handwriting.

Role of Staff

Staff at St Edward’s will be good role models by demonstrating:

- correct formation of letters
- neat, legible and well presented handwriting
- correct posture
- cursive script in the classroom environment (e.g. on some displays, writing on whiteboard)

- Teach handwriting skills based on ‘The St Edward’s Handwriting Sequence’
- Provide meaningful purposes and contexts for the teaching of handwriting skills
- Teach children to use a joined up, cursive style
- Encourage children to take pride in the presentation of their work
- Praise and encourage worthwhile efforts
- Give children at the beginning stages of handwriting opportunities to develop fine motor skills
- Encourage children to take pride in their handwriting and the presentation of their work
- Encourage parents to help children at home with their handwriting (cursive script).