St. Mary’s Writhlington Primary School

*Where children shine*

**Handwriting: Guidelines**

**Reception**



* Pre-writing stage-patterning
* Sky writing
* Individual letter formation
* Felt-tips
* Chubby Pencils
* Correct pencil grip

**Year 1 pupils should be taught to:**

* Sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly
* Begin to form lower case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place
* Form capital letters
* Form digits 0-9
* Understand which letters belong to handwriting ‘families’ (see attachment) and to practise these
* Make links between phonics and spelling
* Be exposed to cursive handwriting and start practising it when ready (see attachment)

**Year 2 pupils should be taught to:**

* Form lower-case letters of the correct size relative to one another
* Start using some of the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters
* Write capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower case letters
* Use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters

**Year 3-4 pupils should be taught to:**

* Use the diagonal and horizontal strokes that are needed to join letters
* Increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting, e.g. by ensuring that the down strokes of letters are parallel and equidistant; that lines of writing are spaced sufficiently so that the ascenders and descenders do not touch

**Year 5-6 pupils should be taught to:**

* Write legibly, fluently, with increasing speed and personal style by:
* Choosing which shape of the letter to use when given choices and deciding, as part of their personal style, whether or not to join specific letters e.g. x
* Choosing the writing implement that is best suited for a task (e.g. quick notes, letters)