



## **Handwriting at Shears Green Junior School**

September 2022

Writing down ideas fluently depends on effective transcription. It also depends on fluent, legible and eventually, speedy handwriting. Handwriting requires frequent and discrete, direct teaching. Pupils should be able to form letters correctly and confidently.

### **Aims**

The aim for children at Shears Green Junior School is to build on their handwriting skills from KS1, where pupils should be taught to:

- Sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly
- Use the correct pen grip
- Form lower case letters of the correct size relative to one another
- Use the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined
- Write capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower case letters
- Appropriately space words
- Write legibly, fluently and with increasing speed by choosing which shape of a letter to use when given choices and deciding whether or not to join specific letters

### **Planning**

At Shears Green Junior School the requirements of the National Curriculum are planned and taught following the sequence of the Nelson Handwriting programme. It is expected that Years 3 and 4 complete discrete handwriting daily. In Years 5 and 6, handwriting may be taught discretely if appropriate (for those requiring more support), otherwise inclusively through writing lessons.

**Use of the visualiser** – Teachers are expected to teach handwriting under the visualiser, with the use of handwriting paper, as opposed to using the interactive whiteboard. This ensures good practice and enables teachers to model correct posture and the correct letter joins.

Children who particularly struggle with handwriting, or are behind that of their peers, should have access to a rigorous handwriting/ fine motor skills programme early on, such as 'Clever Fingers.' On occasions, iPads or laptops, installed with programmes such as Clicker 8, may be issued for children with specific needs, when writing for sustained periods.

All children, from year three to six, are expected to write using a school handwriting pen in every subject, with the exception of Maths.

**Learning environment** – An example of the letter formations are visible in every classroom. Teachers should model this to children at all times, when teaching and through any written feedback in response to children's work.