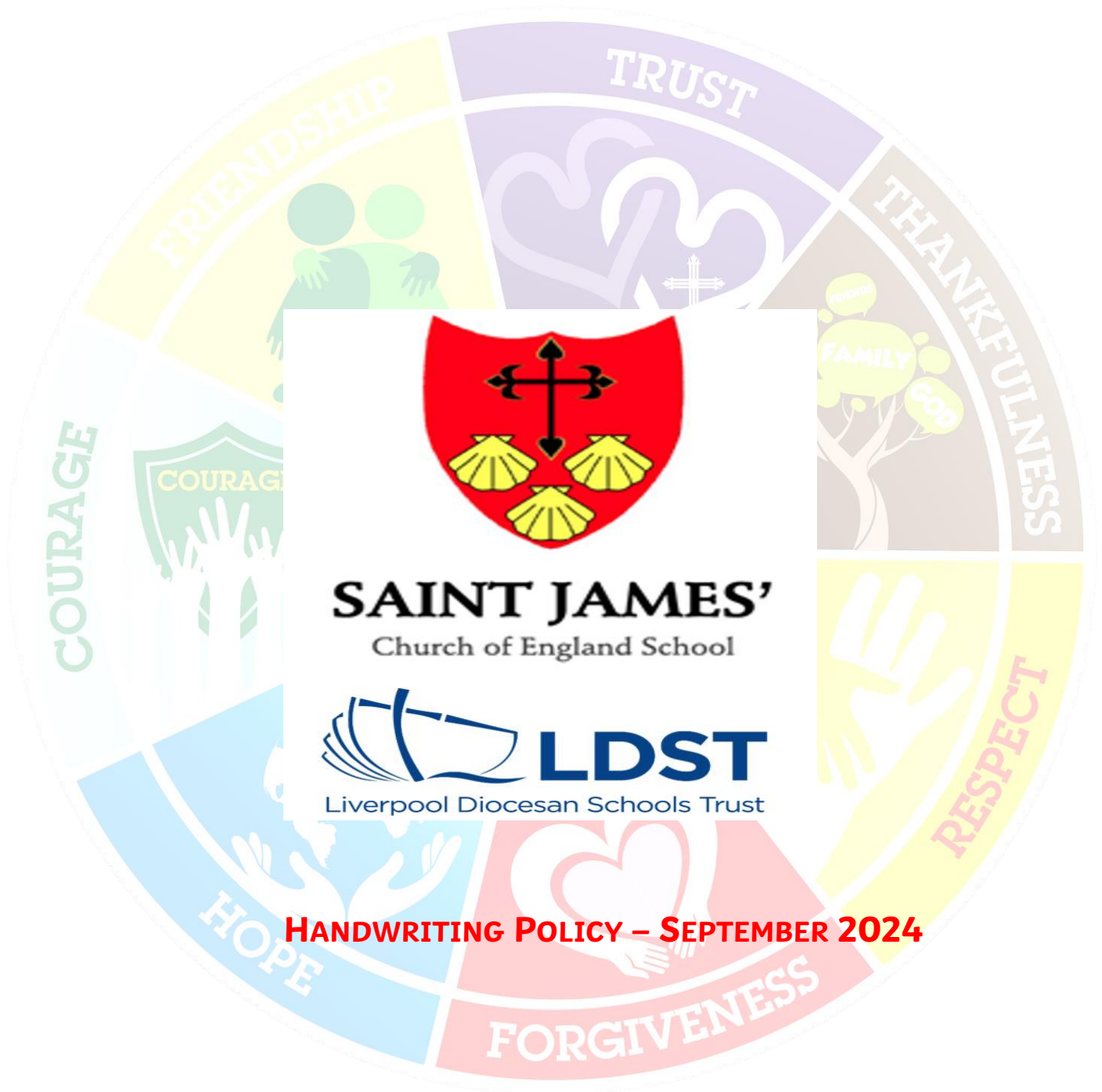


St James' CofE Primary School



HANDWRITING POLICY – SEPTEMBER 2024

Luke 1:37 "For with GOD nothing shall be impossible"

Our 'Learn Curriculum' Key Principles:

The St James' LEARN curriculum.

L	Love Jesus	
E	Equality for Everyone	
A	Attend every day	
R	Reach for the stars	
N	Never give up	

*We are walking hand in hand with Jesus
fulfilling the potential God has given us.
'For with God nothing is impossible'
Luke 1:37*

Our LEARN Curriculum Key Principles:

Our **LEARN** curriculum ensures that our children are successful in learning and in life, no matter what their starting points and barriers to learning may be by:

- Promoting positive partnerships to support the families of our school who speak 15 different languages and who come from many varied faiths and none. So that ALL our pupils are settled in school and ready to **LEARN**.
- Providing nurture, emotional, financial, and spiritual support to our pupils and All stakeholders. So that families and children are fully supported and are in the best place they can be and ready to **LEARN**.
- By understanding our community and thus providing learning opportunities in environments which promote reading, oracy, and the constant development of vocabulary. So that our pupils are equipped with the skills they need to flourish in life and **LEARN**.
- By providing dedicated nurture spaces to offer emotional and practical support to meet the needs of ALL of our pupils thus allowing them to **LEARN**.
- A curriculum which will be inclusive, aspirational, and relevant and respectful to the culture and customs of our children and families. So that our children want to come to school, are engaged with their individual needs met, and experience a full and varied range of opportunities to enrich their lives and **LEARNING** experience.

Because we truly believe that **'For with God nothing is impossible'**

At St James' CE Primary we use Letter Join as the basis of our handwriting policy that covers all the requirements of the 2014 National Curriculum. As a school we are very proud of our pupils handwriting and celebrate our cursive / joined up handwriting in style throughout every subject.

At the end of KS2 all pupils should be able to have the ability to produce fluent, legible and eventually, speedy joined up handwriting, and understand the different forms of handwriting used for different purposes.

School aims

We aim for pupils at St James' to develop neat, legible, speedy handwriting style that leads to producing letters and words automatically in independent writing. At the time our children leave our school, they will understand the importance of neat presentation and the need for different letter form (cursive, printed or Capital Letters) to help communicate meaning clearly.

Method

All the staff at St James' are encouraged to use joined up cursive script for all handwriting tasks - modelling, feedback in books. Throughout the whole school all children are encouraged to take pride in the presentation of their work. Our aim is to measure that all children develop their handwriting with a sense of pride and achievement. Formal teaching of handwriting occurs daily and has a 15 minute slot assigned to it. This is led by the class teacher and the children use specific handwriting books for this. Handwriting is referred to in all lessons and verbal targets are given by the teachers and TA's in the class.

Progression

EARLY YEARS



Letter-join offers the option to start teaching handwriting using printed letters, for all resources and worksheets, before moving on to cursive handwriting.

Pre-cursive patterns and shapes can be challenging for young pupils, but Letter-join has all the resources needed to introduce joined-up handwriting to younger children.

Letter-join's animations model pre-cursive patterns with fun sounds that can be copied by air-writing or by tracing on IWBs, tablets and, most importantly, by practising with a pencil on printed worksheets.

This naturally leads on to the introduction of real letters. Watching and copying the shapes of letters and the various joining techniques will enable pupils to learn to write simple words in a cursive style at this early stage.

In Early Years we support the printed font include all animations, lowercase letters and words, phonics, games and activities – these can be found on the printed worksheets we have access to.

Module 1 includes - pre-cursive patterns and continuous cursive, lower case letters with or without lead-in lines. It starts with Getting Ready for Handwriting: warm-up

exercises, sitting position and tripod pencil grip. At the end of this module children should be able to form and join all lowercase letters.

KS1



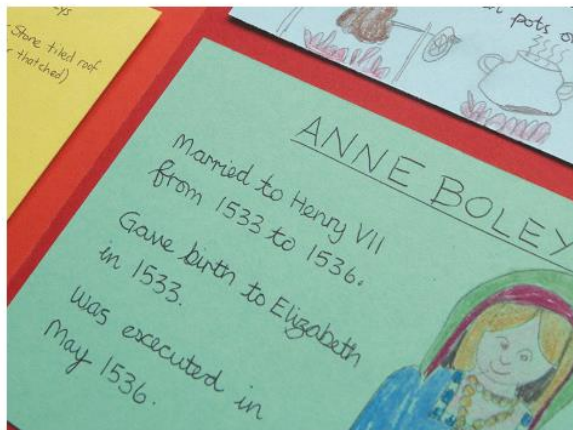
Handwriting can be fun and using Letter-join can help reinforce handwriting with a variety of fresh activities. To support handwriting at school, pupils can also log into Letter-join at home, accessing all the resources including the touch-screen activities on iPads and tablets.

KS1 is the time to introduce new letterforms (capital letters, numbers, the uses of printed letters and punctuation). Letter-join animates all of these to show the correct formation providing ready-made worksheets for labelling and form-filling using capital and printed letters.

Pupils should also be looking to produce neater handwriting with consistent spacing and letter sizes as well as developing 'speedy handwriting' which can be practised using Letter-join's dictation exercises.



KS2



Ready for the final round of handwriting challenges? When pupils master these they'll be true handwriting champions!

Building on KS1 skills, pupils will be writing passages of text neatly and speedily, labelling diagrams using printed letters appropriately and filling in forms using legible writing.

Letter-join's resources will help pupils acquire a feel for neatness and quality in their final handwritten work. The dictation resources will help to develop handwriting stamina when writing.

With the support of Letter-join, pupils will have covered all the criteria necessary by the end of Year 6 to reach the standards set out in the 2014 National Curriculum for handwriting.

Letter join Formation

a b c d e
f g h i j k
l m n o p
q r s t u
v w x y z



LEFT-HANDED CHILDREN

Left-handed children may find it difficult to follow right-handed teachers as they demonstrate letter formation (and vice versa). Teachers should demonstrate to left-handers on an individual or group basis.



- Left-handed pupils should sit to the left of a right-handed child so that they are not competing for space.
- Pupils should position the paper/book to their left side and slanted, as shown.
- Pencils should not be held too close to the point as this can interrupt pupils' line of vision.
- Extra practice with left-to-right exercises may be necessary before pupils write left-to-right automatically.



Paper position for left-handed children

PENS AND PENCILS

Children are encouraged to start handwriting using a soft pencil. When fine motor skills have been established a handwriting pen can be used. More competent pupils can use a ballpoint pen.

INCLUSION

Children whose handwriting is limited by problems with fine motor skills, including left-handed children, and children with special educational needs, will be given one-to-one tuition to help achieve their optimum handwriting levels.