

Welcome to our
Handwriting Workshop

Letter-join 

What are we going to cover:

- What we do for handwriting at Willowbrook
- Why we do it
- How we do it
- What you can do at home to help
- Hopefully some time for questions and for you to give it a try

What we do:

We use Letter-join, an online learning resource which teaches handwriting in line with the National Curriculum.

- Early Years - Reception
- Key Stage 1 - Years 1/2
- Key Stage 2 - Years 3/4/5/6

Letter-join 

Handwriting

at home for parents and pupils



Letter-join 

What we do:

By the end of each key stage

Early Years- children should be able to hold and use a pencil to form recognisable lowercase letters.

Key Stage 1 - children should be able to write legibly with clear descenders and ascenders and use upper and lowercase letters appropriately. (starting each lowercase letter on the line using the correct sequence of movements)

Key Stage 2 - children should be able to maintain fluent and legible joined handwriting when writing at speed.

What we do:

We use and teach a cursive handwriting style. This is where each lower case letter starts using an upwards stroke from the line it is written on or from the previous letter.

Why have we chosen to use this style?

Aa Bb Cc Dd

Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii

Jj Kk Ll Mm

Nn Oo Pp Qq

Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv

Ww Xx Yy Zz

Why we do it:

Cursive writing helps improve:

- Enhances presentation and children's ability to keep writing on the line
- fine motor skills and brain development by stimulating neural pathways between the left and right hemisphere
- can enhance writing speed - Ofsted research papers highlight that the inability to develop secure transcription skills early makes a serious and substantial impact on children writing development as a whole
- can potentially improve reading comprehension and memory retention, spelling pattern understanding all through the fluid motion of connecting letters while writing
- essentially, it engages the brain in a way that typing or printing alone may not.

Aa Bb Cc Dd

Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii

Jj Kk Ll Mm

Nn Oo Pp Qq

Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv

Ww Xx Yy Zz

How we do it here at Willowbrook:

- In years 1 - 6, two 30-minute handwriting lessons are timetabled each week specifically dedicated to following the Letter Join module lessons for each year group.
- EYFS delivers shorter lessons throughout the week following Module 1.

Aa Bb Cc Dd

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Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv

Ww Xx Yy Zz

How we do it here at Willowbrook:

- Lesson structure:
- Each session will begin with 'Dough Disco' aimed at developing strength and dexterity in the hands to improve fine motor skills and handwriting control. (approx. ten mins)

Dough Disco

Let's go to the Dough Disco
By Shanette & Amy

Move 1
Ball it, Squeeze between two palms
...Nip and pinch, nip and pinch. What are you making?
A pizza
Show your friends in Slow mo!

Move 2
Ball it and ball it

Move 3
Tap it! Tap it!
Now the other hand

Move 4
Take each finger on the dance floor
Now the other hand

Move 5
Our fingers are going diving! One at a time!
Whoa! Whee!
Now the other hand

Move 6
Two fingers on the dance floor for a dance off! Which two will it be?
Now the other hand

Move 7
Dough-Nut
Like the pizza start with move 2 and press the ball flat with your two palms. Then using your thumb and a finger nip the centre of the circle until your finger or thumb go through the middle. Push your thumb through the hole and show everyone your Dough-Nut.

How we do it here at Willowbrook:

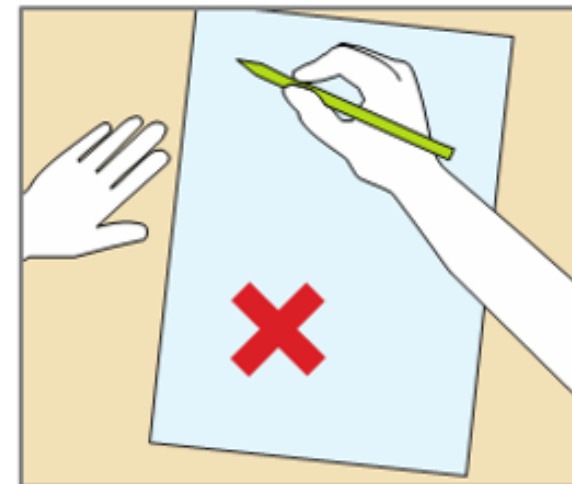
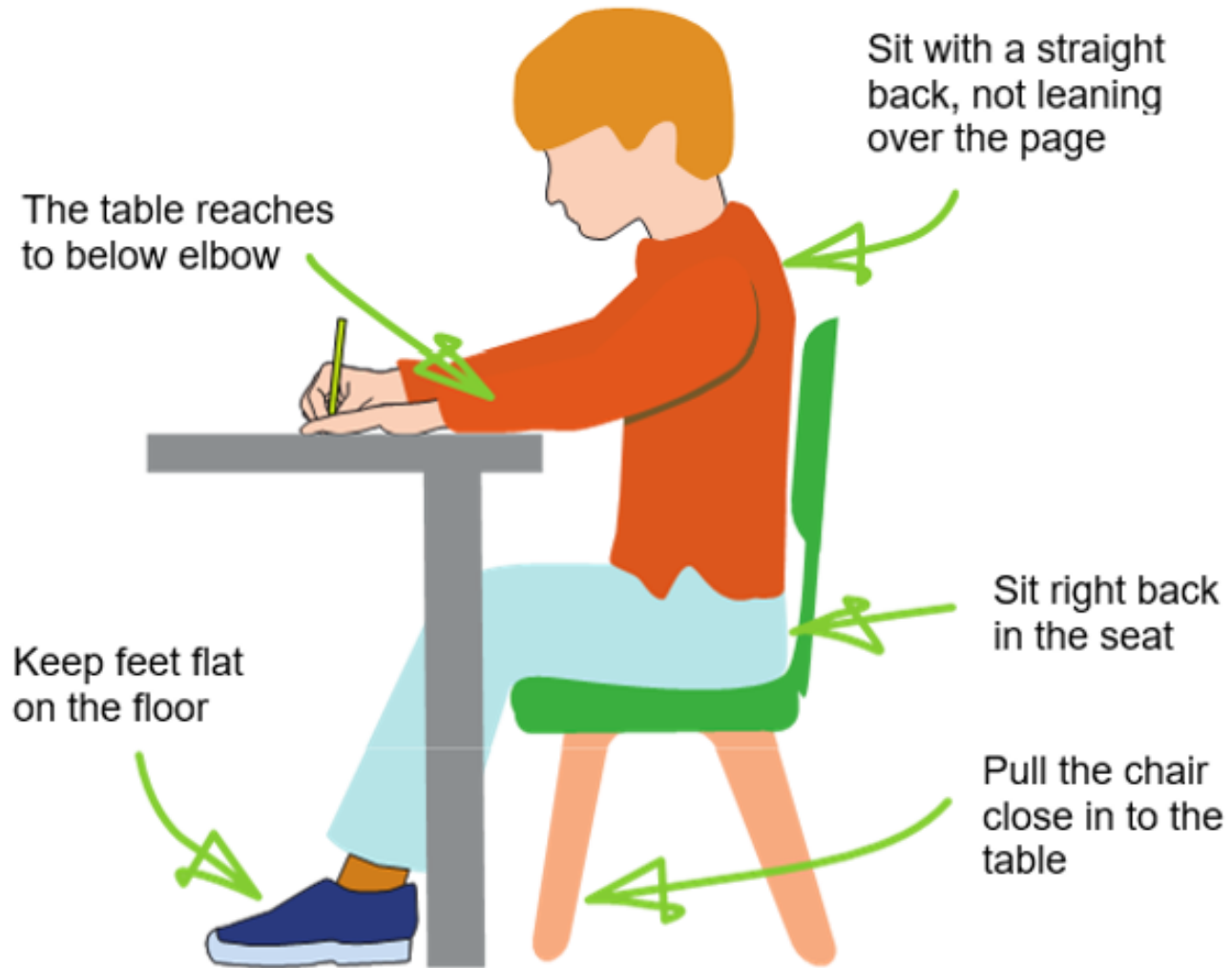
Before beginning written exercises, teachers ensures that:

- the correct sitting position is being used
- the paper/book is angled appropriately
- the correct pencil/pen grip is being used for both right and left-handed writers.

Correct posture and pencil grip for handwriting

Pupils should be taught to sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly.

SITTING POSITION



Paper position for right-handed children.

Right-handed pencil grip



Point away the pencil,



Pinch it near the tip,

'pinch it'



Lift it off the table,

'lift it'



Spin it round...

'spin it'



and grip.

'grip it'

Left-handed pencil grip



Point away the pencil,



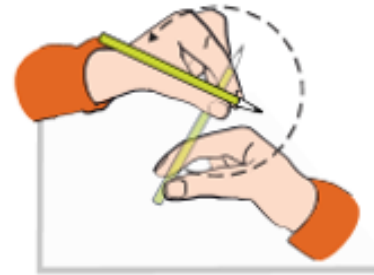
Pinch it near the tip,

'pinch it'



Lift it off the table,

'lift it'



Spin it round...

'spin it'



and grip.

'grip it'

How we do it here at Willowbrook:

Some children who experience fine motor difficulties receive additional support through research based interventions that can be used in addition to weekly handwriting:

- Squiggle while you wiggle
- Write from the start - for pencil control
- Finger gym - for muscle strengthening
- Handwriting recovery programme - for years 5 and 6 from Letter Join.
- Additional boosters in class as a recap
- Speed write

How we do it here at Willowbrook:

- Pen Licences are issued when a child's handwriting is joined and of consistent size and shape.
- Children receive a pen licence certificate and a pen.



Congratulations!

can now join up his/her letters consistently and has achieved his/her Pen Licence.



Date:

Signature:

How you can help at home:

- Please make sure you children hold all writing equipment correctly all the time and they are sitting correctly.
- Use and encourage them to use the same style of handwriting we use here
- Provide as many opportunities for writing as you can - shopping lists, birthday cards, letters
- Celebrate writing - display and praise their work. Let them see you write and enjoy writing for pleasure not just necessity
- Homework: coming soon we will have the opportunity for you to access some of the Letter-Join online resources at home free of charge.

Do you have any questions?

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