

Handwriting at our school

At Minchinhampton School, we think it is important to teach cursive handwriting from the start. Some would say that concerning oneself with handwriting is old fashioned and unnecessary. However it is our experience that, when taught properly, handwriting can play a significant role in a child's learning and sense of themselves.

We teach a fully cursive script, based on an approach championed by a local educator, Julie Palmer, in her book, 'The Write Path.' This scheme involves joining all letters and all letters start from the same place on the line. This helps with letter formation and orientation- especially for those who find spatial awareness tricky. We teach lead ins and lead outs to children when they start to write in the Foundation Stage which then enables children to progress quickly to a cursive script. As with all handwriting, it is important to teach correct posture and grip alongside the scheme, if it is to be successful.

The main purpose of any joined writing system is to give the writer a steady flow in a legible style which can be speeded up easily. We have found it also gives pupils increased confidence and pride in their writing, and helps them to better recall letter strings for spelling words.

Many parents have been very impressed by the enormous improvement their children made in their writing over the last year after we introduced the new scheme. If you would like to find out more or have any questions about the approach, please do come and ask.