

Glendale Infant school

Handwriting and Presentation Parent Guide.

At Glendale letter formation is first taught in reception following the readwriteinc letter rhymes and then further developed in KS 1 using Kinetic letters handwriting scheme.

Handwriting is a physical skill that demands attention to detail.

Expectations

Writing depends on fluent, legible and eventually speedy handwriting. Your child should know the following.

- Know that writing goes from left to right across the page.
- Leave spaces between words that reflect the size of the letters.
- Write lower case letters of the correct size relative to one another.
- Write capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower case letters.

The children are required to write with accurate letter formation using correctly sized letters that sit on the line. Ascenders (tall letters) and descenders (letters that hang below the line) should be clear and for some children in year 1 and many children in year 2 , some joins will be used. Presentation is important when we communicate through writing and it is necessary to practice how to form letters correctly.

As children begin to join it is important that formation is already second nature to them, to enable letters to flow and join easily. If they finish letters in the wrong place they will not be able to join letters easily, neatly and effectively.

Promoting good handwriting.

Learning how to sit, the angle to place the paper and how to hold the writing tool are all important factors.

Posture.

- You should have two feet on the floor making sure that your body faces the table.
- The chair should be a comfortable distance from the table and of a height suited to the table.
- You should be able to rest your elbows and forearms on the table.
- Your non-writing hand will support in keeping your paper or book in the correct position.



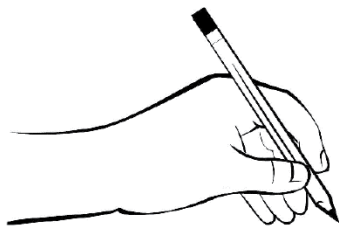
Pencil grip.

When your child is developmentally ready to write, the pencil grip should be firm but relaxed. The pencil should be held between thumb and first finger, resting against the middle finger. Holding the pen or pencil correctly allows the fingers and wrist to move freely, without putting strain on the hand, helping to improve handwriting and making it more comfortable.

Hold pencil with a light grip.

1. Thumb holds pencil.
2. First finger rests on top of the pencil.
3. Pencil rests against third finger.

Left hand



Right hand



Some left-handed children may need to hold the pencil a little further away from the pencil to avoid obscuring their writing with their thumb or knuckle.

Children are encouraged to use the correct pencil grip and write with good pressure on the page.

If children do not develop the correct grip, it can cause strain as their hand and fingers are in the wrong position. We use pencil grips to try to help children correct this. Grips come in many shapes and sizes and children may need to try several before they become comfortable with their grip.

Children who are left-handed are monitored carefully. They have a tendency to turn their wrists and hands so that they can see what they have written. We are also very conscious of the challenges that can be faced when developing skills such as using paintbrushes, scissors, cutlery and other daily equipment.

We hope this guide is helpful. If you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to speak with your child's class teacher.