

Sacred Heart R.C. Primary School

**Handwriting and
Presentation Guidance
for Parents and Carers.**



*‘With Christ as our guide,
we inspire and thrive’.*

CHANGES TO HANDWRITING AT SACRED HEART.

After reflecting upon our current practice (internal and external moderation of our children's letter formation and pride in the presentation of work), we have made some significant changes to our handwriting practice at Sacred Heart. Through our moderation practices, it was apparent that an increasing number of children have developed unhealthy habits with regards to posture, pencil grip when writing and levels of presentation which does not enable them to be proud of their work.

We have therefore invested a lot of research, time and money on developing the most effective handwriting method for all of our children. All staff have received additional handwriting training from Martin Harvey who is one of the directors of Improvement in School through Handwriting and Art (ISHA). We have purchased a range of new exercise books which provide line guides of various sizes to support our children in English, History and Geography.

The following habits taken from ISHA are essential for ensuring that our children produce handwriting of the highest quality.

ESSENTIAL HABITS FOR DEVELOPING EXCELLENT HANDWRITING.

Two hands. Insist on children always using two hands when writing. *One hand to hold the paper and one hand to write with.*

Six feet. Children must always keep six feet on the floor. *Their own two feet and the chair's four feet.* This means that the child does not kneel or sit crossed legged in the chair. Neither do they rock backwards and forwards on the chair.

BBC. Ensure that children always sit in the BBC position – *Bottom Back in Chair.* This means that they never sit with the chair sticking out and their bottom on the front edge of the chair.

TNT. *Tummy Near Table.* This ensures that the child is sitting with the body close to their work, instead of having to stretch forward to write.



Paper position. *The paper should be upright when the child is writing or at an angle not greater than 45 degrees.* When the children turn their paper to an angle greater than this, it is often because the pencil is being held with the thumb in a position which blocks the child's view of the pencil point.

Good posture and correct seating position are vital components of developing good handwriting. These habits must *not* be seen *just as good habits for handwriting*. They must be insisted upon in all subject areas, throughout the school day, otherwise their impact is reduced. It has to be seen as the correct way, indeed the only way, rather than what is expected merely in handwriting lessons.

