



ST MARGARET OF SCOTLAND
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

FINE MOTOR, LETTER FORMATION AND
HANDWRITING GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS



September 2017

Introduction

We would like to share with you how we teach handwriting at St Margaret of Scotland Primary School. This booklet will give you the information you need to support your child at home. We have included the style of writing we teach and how to form all of the letters.

We have also listed a range of the fine motor activities that children do at school. We hope that you might be able to use or adapt some of these activities to use at home to support your child in their fine motor and handwriting development.

If you are not sure where to start or which activities would be appropriate for your child please ask your child's teacher. They will be really happy to spend some time discussing this with you.

Frequently Asked Questions

My child reverses letters, is this something to worry about?

This is common in young children – nearly all children reverse some letters, the most common ones seem to be b and d.

It is something to be aware of – bad habits can be hard to undo. If you notice your child has reversed a letter don't be afraid to point it out to them. It is important to write for them the correct formation so they can see and then they can have a go at copying yours.

We always try and phrase this as positively in school as possible so as not to knock their confidence - for example: "That b is the right shape, well done, you've just got it back to front. Can you get it this way round like mine?"

When should my child start to join their letters?

Every child is an individual and will be ready in their own time. However in general, most children start to learn their lead ins and outs in year 1 and then start to join letters in year 2.

We want children to be able to form all letters correctly and for their letters to be quite regular in size before we begin work on joining up with them.

What is meant by fine motor?

This refers to a child's ability to be able to manipulate small items and exert control over items with their fingers and hands. Fine motor control can be improved with lots of different activities such as threading activities and using scissors to cut paper.

Children need to have good fine motor skills to enable them to develop their handwriting later on.

Examples of Activities used to teach fine motor and handwriting across the school.

- Making patterns/writing letters in trays filled with salt/soil/sand/shaving foam/glitter
- Using buckets of water and decorating paintbrushes to paint patterns, shapes, letters and words.
- Using tweezers to pick up small items.
- Scissor skills.
- Threading beads.
- Letter formation with fingers in the air/on the carpet/on palm of hand/on friends back.
- Lacing.
- Finger painting.
- Peg boards
- Chalk – outside on concrete as well as on chalk boards.
- Tracing activities.
- Dot to dot puzzles.
- Lego and small world toys.
- Colouring, painting and collage letter outlines.
- White board and dry wipe pens.

Agreed Letter Formation

Children should be taught to form their letters in this way, starting from the dot.

Pencils are only taken off for i,j,t,f and x

c a d g o q

b h k p

i j l t

r n m

u y

v w x

f s z e

Agreed letter Formation

Children should be taught to form their letters in this way starting from the dot.

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

Learning To Join Letters

Teachers use their professional judgement to determine when a child can form letters correctly and is ready to begin joining. Children should be taught the following lead ins and outs in preparation for joining.

Letters are taught in families.

1. c a d g o q

2. b h k p

3. i j l t

4. r n m

5. u y

6. v w x

7. f s

8. z e