

THE WRITING FRAMEWORK PRACTISING HANDWRITING



Statements

Section 2

Teachers should plan for regular teaching and practice.

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This might initially include systematic teaching of and practice in moving the pencil to master the horizontal, diagonal, vertical and circular strokes needed for writing.

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Section 3

For the first few weeks, this may include building the foundations for handwriting, such as practising making the movements needed to form letters in the air.

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Misconception

Handwriting lessons focus on letter formations

Focus shifts from providing opportunities in EYFS for developing physical skills necessary and instead leaps to formalised lesson structures.

Due to the wording in section 3 – schools feel pressured to move from physical skills to lessons before the end of the first half term in Autumn.

Explanation

Further examples in the framework help to demystify this misconception.

Section 2

Teachers must ensure letter formation is secure before text gets longer.

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Section 3

Handwriting fluency rests on developing both physical and cognitive skills...

Teachers should not underestimate the need to focus on the explicit teaching of both letter formation (controlling the size, speed and direction) and the physical elements (holding and manoeuvring the pencil, positioning the body, positioning the paper).

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Top Tips



Ensure all the foundations for handwriting have been secured – are the children able to use the Dynamic Tripod Grasp?

If children are not using the correct grip, handwriting lessons will need to focus on securing the foundations first otherwise the physical struggles will ultimately impact the cognitive ability of the child when writing.

For teachers and phase leaders:

- Review subject knowledge on Postural Control, pre writing skills, the progression of grips and the impact of physical development (shoulder, elbow and wrist pivots).
- This will help inform the teaching so that it can be adapted as necessary. This will also show the journey the children need to follow in order to eventually become fluent writers.

Remember, secure the foundations first.

For some children this will relate to the physical elements required for writing.



Oracy Award



The Writing Framework Handwriting Statements
Our expert explores the Writing Framework handwriting statements and helps to address any misconceptions which may emerge.
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Handwriting



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