

School Improvement Plan – Handwriting

Kilbonane National School

September 2020- June 2022

Summary of main strengths

- 76.5% of pupils enjoy handwriting. This is a very positive statistic.
- 69.6% of parents reported that their children enjoy handwriting.
- Teachers report that children enjoy handwriting sessions in class and that handwriting is reasonably strong in our school.
- Variety of teaching approaches used.
- Good handwriting is identified and positive feedback is given to the children.
- Children are exposed to good handwriting practises being modelled by the teacher.
- Parents are informed of any issues which may arise in relation to their child’s handwriting.

Summary of main areas requiring improvements

- Handwriting was being taught using a selection of handwriting resources/books/copies.
- There is no one consistent approach/programme that is followed from Junior Infants upwards.
- A small number of pupils have poor posture and/or use an incorrect pencil grip when writing.
- Confusion between PRINT script and cursive can create sloppy work amongst some pupils. For example some pupils trying to do the loopy letters etc.
- Need to implement a whole school approach to teaching handwriting.
- Children will be taught print (script) style handwriting throughout the school.
- Need for consistent expectations of overall handwriting and presentation throughout the school.
- Particular emphasis should be placed on developing pupils’ fine motor skills, pencil grip and posture in the lower classes.
- 3 specific handwriting sessions for each class each week. Opportunities for daily handwriting practice would be optimal.
- Create a literacy-rich environment in the school by displaying children’s written work on classroom walls and displays.

Our Improvement Plan – From September 2020 to June 2022

YEAR ONE 2020-2021

- To develop a whole school approach to the teaching of handwriting and place an emphasis on its importance
- To ensuring that the children at every class level are provided with the opportunities to use print style handwriting.

Improvement Targets	Required Actions	Persons/ groups responsible	Criteria for Success	Timeframe for actions	Review Dates
Develop positive attitudes towards handwriting throughout the school.	Provide positive affirmation and acknowledgement of the children's handwriting. Display children's handwriting on classroom boards.	Class teacher / SET team	Continuous display of children's writing in the classroom and school. Pupil feedback	End of year one	May 2021
Further develop pupils' fine motor skills.	To develop the children's fine motor skills through a variety of practical activities. Pre-writing skills and fine motor skills are being taught extensively in the infant classes progressing to the correct letter formation.	Class teacher / SET team	Pupils will show improved fine motor skills. The children will have good muscle control when using a pencil.	End of year one	May 2021
To provide opportunities for regular and explicit teaching of handwriting practice.	Each teacher will conduct handwriting lessons at least 3 times per week for ten minutes.	Class teacher / SET team	Each child will have received at least 30 minutes per week of taught handwriting practice.	End of year one	May 2021
To enable each child to develop the correct pencil grip and the correct sitting position for handwriting.	Provide opportunities to develop the correct pencil grip through modelling and reinforcing. Develop a handwriting rhyme and warm ups for handwriting lessons. Posters to show correct pencil grip and writing posture in each classroom.	Class teacher / SET team	Each child will display improved pencil grip and writing posture. Use of a warm up routine before handwriting lessons.	End of year one	May 2021
To enable the children to develop a print style of handwriting.	To develop a whole-school approach to print writing across all curricular areas.	Class teacher / SET team	The children will develop the correct print script letter formations. Each class will write in print style during the year.	End of year one	May 2021

To encourage children to develop an awareness of the importance of clear, neat presentation of writing	To model good presentation of writing for the children and clearly articulate expectations. To display handwriting within the classroom.	Class teacher / SET team	Children present their written work well and in line with the class teachers' expectation of them. Display evidence of children using clear, neat presentation skills.	End of year one	May 2021
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YEAR TWO 2021-2022

- To continue to develop the skills of print letter formation and maintain a high standard of writing with the school
- To have instilled an ethos of excellence in the area of handwriting throughout the school with standards being consistent and measurable.

Improvement Targets	Required Actions	Persons/ groups responsible	Criteria for Success	Timeframe for actions	Review Dates
To maintain a consistent approach to handwriting in order to raise standards.	To continue to encourage the use of print script in all classes. Focus will be on legibility, fluidity and speed as well as presentation skills.	Class teacher / SET team	Progression in legibility, fluidity and speed is reported by the class teachers. Teacher observation	End of year two	May 2022
Application of print handwriting skills throughout all curricular areas.	To encourage the children to use print handwriting when writing in all subjects.	Class teacher / SET team	Children will use print cross curricular.	End of year two	May 2022

Monitor and Review

Progress and challenges will be reviewed during staff meetings/Croke Park hours.

Agree and allocate time for monitoring actions.

The plan will be communicated to parents via the school website.

The display of good quality and improving handwriting on classroom boards will be very motivating for everyone as progress could be easily observed.

Teachers are motivated to continue promoting the development of good handwriting skills as they observe improved written work in all subject areas.