**Handwriting**

Handwriting is a skill which, like reading and spelling, affects written communication across the curriculum. We follow a consistent approach to the teaching of handwriting. Children must be able to write with ease, speed and legibility. At Charles Darwin we teach all children to do this. We make sure that we allow sufficient time for pupils to be explicitly taught and to practice handwriting. In EYFS the focus is on developing children’s motor skills and a comfortable pencil grip. Children are taught to form letters correctly without joining. This continues into KS1 and once children have achieved sufficient fluency with unjoined letters of a consistent size, joins are introduced in a systematic order. [Handwriting scheme], teaches pupils to join letters and words as a series of flowing movements and patterns. Handwriting skills should be taught regularly and systematically.

At Charles Darwin, our aims in teaching handwriting are that the pupils will:

* Achieve a neat, legible style with correctly formed letters in accordance with the cursive font.
* Develop flow and speed.
* Eventually produce the letters automatically and in their independent writing.

**What is good handwriting?**

Good handwriting is legible, fluent and efficient:

* **Legible:** adhering to the characteristic letter shapes
* **Fluid:** writing with an even, quick writing rhythm
* **Fatigue-free:** writing with little and balanced pressure
* **Efficient:** quick and yet fatigue-free writing
* **Individual:** a personal writing style

**What do our handwriting sessions include?**

* Regular short bursts
* A clear learning focus for the lesson, linking to spelling patterns where possible in KS2
* Start with a warm up
* Clear modelling - show/model/support with letter height
* Guided groups to support children who are struggling
* Practise in English books on appropriate lines