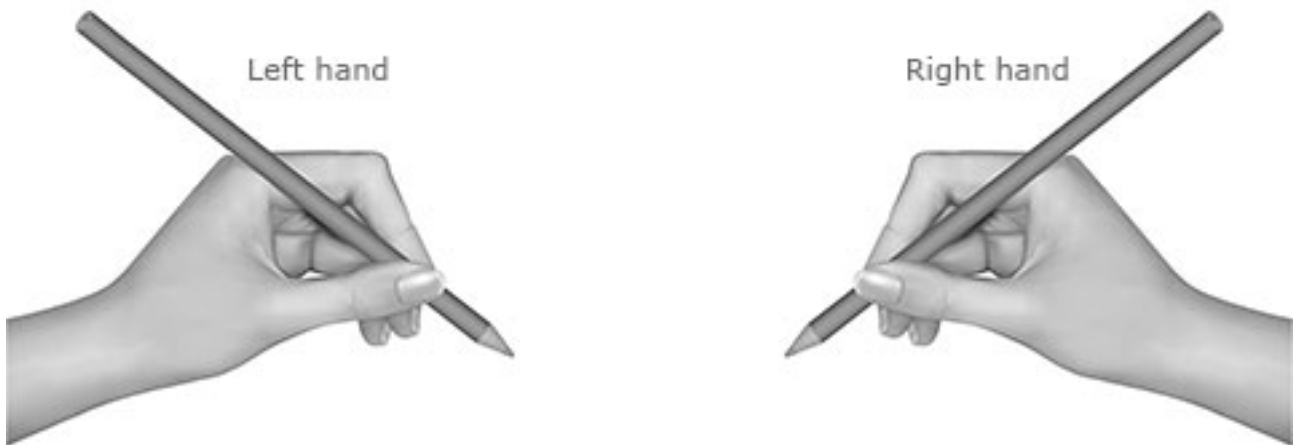


Handwriting program



Pen/pencil hold

- The pencil should be held lightly between the second finger and the thumb. The first finger should rest lightly on the pencil.
- The barrel of the pencil should rest against the knuckle at the base of the first finger, pointing outwards above the elbow.
- The pencil should be held about two centimetres from the point.
- The side of the forearm and the third and little fingers should lightly touch the paper.

The Launceston Preparatory School Handwriting Program

General principles

The aim of this program is to enable students to write in a fluent and legible style.

The program sequence is logical and minimises changes in letter formation and style from one stage to the next.

This program recognizes that children learn at different rates. Thus, a spiralling approach is adopted where children regularly review and practice concepts that have been taught.

All teachers are teachers of handwriting and need to reinforce the handwriting principles and specifics that are contained herein.

Consistency is important. All teachers need to teach and encourage the letter formations and handwriting style set out in this document.

Progression

4 – 5 year olds

In Kindergarten, students do not have handwriting lessons as such and the teacher scribes for the early stages of recorded language.

The correct “tripod” pencil grip is taught and reinforced. (i.e. Pencil is held between thumb and forefinger, with the other three fingers tucked against the base of the thumb and hand.)

When children begin to attempt their own alphabetic writing, basic letter formation is encouraged as set out below. Children are encouraged to track the letters in the correct direction.

l + i j f e
v w x z u y
c o a d g q s
n m r h b k p

5 – 7 year olds

The correct “tripod” pencil grip and tracking direction are taught and reinforced at this stage.

Recognising that students will be at different stages of their handwriting development as children move from Kinder into Prep, basic letter formation is taught and reinforced.

Once this basic formation is well-established, letters with exit strokes are taught and encouraged as shown below.

(N.B. There is only one correct way to write a lower case “b”. In correct confusion between “b” and “d”, the emphasis will be on starting with the “stick” and the “ball” in these letters respectively.)

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh
Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp
Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww
Xx Yy Zz

7 – 9 year olds

All previous stages are reviewed, corrected and reinforced.

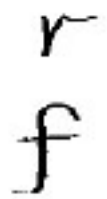
Students are taught how to link their letters without moving through the “dropping on” phase.

The only changes in letter style at this stage compared with the previous one are for the letters “r” and “f” as follows:

5 – 7 year olds stage



7 – 9 year olds stage



9 – 10 year olds

This is a consolidation stage, where correct pencil grip, letter formation and linked style are practised and reinforced.

By the end of this stage (end Grade 5), students should have formed their own fluent and legible style. Any “bad habits” will be difficult to correct after this stage.

11 – 12 year olds (Grade 6)

Once students have a proven and consistent track record of neat, fluent and legible handwriting, they will be permitted to write in blue or black biro. Ink or “roller ball” style pens are not accepted as the ink flows through the paper in their exercise books and affects the reverse side.

Handwriting practice sheet

Cursive Alphabet

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

Capitals

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

Numbers

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Start at the dot and follow
the arrow.