



School Improvement Plan: Cursive Handwriting

Objective:

To improve the cursive handwriting skills of pupils by implementing consistent teaching methods and creating a positive learning environment.

Strategies:

1. Implement structured Handwriting Lessons:

- a. Introduce discrete handwriting lessons into the weekly class timetable
- b. Designate specific time slot across the whole school for discrete handwriting lessons -first thing in the morning for 15 mins
- c. Ensure teachers are updated in effective handwriting teaching methods. Appendix 1

2. Model Joins and Letter Height:

- a. Demonstrate proper letter joins and consistent letter heights.
- b. Use visual aids, such as charts and posters, to display examples of correct joins and letter heights.
- c. Provide regular feedback and correction during handwriting practice.

3. Teacher's Role:

- a. Encourage teachers to write in the cursive script they are teaching.
- b. Model correct letter formation and neat handwriting on the board.
- c. Emphasize the importance of consistency in handwriting across subjects.

4. Provide Resources:

- a. 1st- 6th class ' Handwriting made easy ' book , Infants 'Over the Moon' and additional worksheets
- b. Use handwriting books as a valuable learning tool rather than just a time filler.
- c. Use specific handwriting copies as an additional resource
- d. Encourage transfer of handwriting skills in copies of subjects

5. Establish Consistent Expectations:

- a. Set clear and consistent guidelines for handwriting expectations across all grade levels.- display an example in class of what you are aiming for in handwriting
- b. A prominent display of handwriting joins relevant to that class level should be displayed, e.g 1st- 6th alphabet in cursive script Infants- Jolly Phonics frieze
- c. Regularly review and reinforce these expectations with students.

6. Pen License and Handwriting Celebration:

- a. 5th class to be established for the year to get a pen license.
- b. Celebrate the achievement of the pen license with a special ceremony.

- c. Create a handwriting WOW wall to showcase and celebrate students' progress.
7. Communication with Parents:
- a. Provide clear guidance to parents about the importance of cursive handwriting at September meetings.
 - b. Share tips and resources for supporting their child's handwriting development- section of website
 - c. Regularly communicate student progress and areas for improvement.
8. Dedicated Time Slot for Handwriting:
- a. Allocate a specific time slot for handwriting practice, such as the first fifteen minutes every morning.
 - b. Focus on developing fine motor skills during this dedicated time slot for infants
 - c. Incorporate engaging activities and exercises room to practice formation /joins eg . whiteboard, sand, scrap books and markers.

Strategies for Measuring Progress:

1. Academic Year:
- a. Conduct regular assessments to track individual student progress.
 - b. Analyze handwriting samples at the beginning and end of the academic year.
 - c. Compare handwriting samples to identify improvements and areas requiring further attention.
2. Three-Year Period:
- a. Create a baseline assessment at the start of the three-year period.
 - b. Monitor and record handwriting progress annually.
 - c. Evaluate the overall improvement in handwriting skills over the three-year period.

Success Criteria

1. Improved cursive handwriting skills, as assessed through regular assessment, should increase by at least 20% by the end of the academic year.
2. Consistent Implementation of Handwriting Lessons: All teachers should consistently allocate and use the designated time slot for handwriting instruction, with at least 90% adherence to the schedule throughout the academic year.
3. Achievement of Pen License: At least 80% of 5th class children should achieve the pen license, indicating their mastery of cursive handwriting skills. The pen license achievement should be celebrated with a special ceremony, and the handwriting WOW wall should showcase and celebrate students' progress.

Appendix 1

PATTERNS FOR HANDWRITING

https://curriculumonline.ie/getmedia/db269a17-5ee1-4c7c-a949-b52fe8146a7f/WRITING_Patterns-for-Handwriting-Writing.pdf?ext=.pdf

LANGUAGE OF HANDWRITING

https://curriculumonline.ie/getmedia/23a877d2-3199-4086-b150-fd441697874b/WRITING_Language_of_handwriting.pdf?ext=.pdf

CURSIVE WRITING

<https://curriculumonline.ie/getmedia/751380e0-db7a-46d3-aa12-923b43d9aa11/Cursive-Writing.pdf>