

## Writing at the Link

Letter formation and writing is not acquired naturally. It is a skill that is learnt through instruction.

The ability to learn to write is dependant upon readiness in the areas of language, motor, perception and sensory development.

At the Link teachers and therapists assess and target all these areas. Pre writing programmes are then individually tailored based on needs, interests and sensory preferences.

Gross motor and fun activities run alongside more formal instruction such as copying lines and shapes needed for letter formation and developing hand preference and a functional pen grip.

When pupils are ready for a more formalised instruction the most appropriate programme is developed to best meet their needs. Handwriting lessons are lead by the class teachers with advice from the school occupational Therapists.

Many of our pupils need explicit and direct handwriting instruction to enable them to learn the motor pattern for each letter. Only when handwriting is fluent, can it be an effective tool for demonstrating knowledge, as our “thinking” brain is free to concentrate on content..

For some pupils handwriting will not become automatic and therefore if appropriate touch typing is taught alongside writing skills.