

Handwriting at Waterthorpe Nursery Infant School and Emmanuel Junior Academy

We would like to clarify and reassure parents about the handwriting policies of both schools.

Waterthorpe Nursery Infant School teaches children a cursive script, in which letters 'smile' from the line. This policy was introduced a few years ago by both schools to ensure that children form their letters correctly right from the beginning of their education and don't therefore have to re-learn handwriting as they move through their school career. Some children find this style of script helpful and achieve well in handwriting in the Infants and Juniors.

As you may be aware Emmanuel Junior Academy has recently adopted a new handwriting scheme. From September this year children attending Emmanuel Junior Academy will be taught 'Excellence in Handwriting' this is also a cursive script but does not 'smile' from the line.

The Key issues that Emmanuel Junior Academy want to work with families on are:

- To ensure capital letters are clearly formed and distinguishable from lower case letters
- To ensure all letters are a consistent size

Waterthorpe Nursery Infant School will also put an emphasis on these priorities, particularly in Year Two.

The 'smiley writing' taught in Waterthorpe Nursery Infant School will remain an important part of the Infant curriculum. It provides a consistent and appropriate handwriting style that many children will continue to use in Emmanuel Junior Academy.

The fundamental formation of letter remains the same and we would like to reassure parents that those children who already have a cursive handwriting style, either 'smiley' or their own, will not be asked to change or adopt the new style.

Some children develop a consistent handwriting style using 'smiley writing', however some do not, we hope that by exposing children to both styles, all children will develop a consistently sized, joined script by Year Six.

Please don't hesitate to contact either Waterthorpe Nursery Infant School or Emmanuel Junior School if you have any concerns.