**Ashleigh Primary School and Nursery, Wymondham**

***"We are all stars, Ashleigh makes us shine"***

# HANDWRITING POLICY

**Persons Responsible – Literacy Co-ordinator**

**Date of Policy: November 2015 Next Review Due: November 2017**

**Adopted by Full Governing Body**

**Signed ..... Date .....**

**Chair of Governors**

**Review completed .....**

**Review completed .....**

**Review completed .....**

# HANDWRITING POLICY

**Implemented: Autumn 2015**

## HANDWRITING

At Ashleigh we aim to ensure that children develop fine motor skills and handwriting skills to write confidently.
We follow the same vocabulary across the school. The letters are taught in letter families using o'clock, top to bottom, over the bridge families.
We use the Nelson's Handwriting Scheme to support progression and teaching of joins.

## EYFS

- Children develop fundamental skills to prepare them for writing
    - Shoulder, elbow and wrist pivot development
    - Fine motor skills development
    - Pincer grasp strengthening
    - Hand-eye coordination

- Children develop pre-writing skills before they put pencil to paper through a range of mark making opportunities

- The environment provides a range of writing opportunities, indoors and outdoors, where children can practise and apply pre-writing skills

- Children have access to a range of mark making tools: chubby crayons, big chalk, paint brushes, thick triangular pencils

- Children are taught the letters in their name when they are developmentally ready

- In Reception, correct letter formation is taught alongside phonics teaching for those children ready to form letters

- In Reception children are taught to form letters related to the 'letter families' they belong to: o'clock families, over the bridge family, under the bridge family, stick families

- Staff use consistent language for the teaching of handwriting to describe how the letters should be formed: top to bottom, one o'clock and all the way round

- Children use thick triangular pencils and hand huggers

**KS1 and KS2**

- Writing for purpose is embedded across the curriculum to allow children the opportunity to apply their writing skills.

- Handwriting is taught in Year 1 and children continue to learn how to form letters in 'letter families'.

- Handwriting is taught in Year 2 and 3 using the Nelson Handwriting Scheme.

- Staff use consistent language for the teaching of handwriting to describe how the letters should be formed.

- In Year 2, children are taught the diagonal and horizontal strokes to join letters appropriately.

- Children use skinny pencils in KS1 and work towards the use of a pen in Year 3.

- Some children may continue to use triangular pencils or pencil grips in KS1 to support their writing