

Introduction

The relevance of teaching good handwriting is sometimes questioned in the modern age where the word processor is a valued tool. But good teaching of handwriting is just as important in these days of advanced technology as it has ever been. The need to create things of beauty will never leave the human mind and nothing will ever beat that feeling of personal triumph when we look at a completed task achieved with our own hands.

It is not necessary to judge whether the word processor or handwriting has the greatest value, because they should exist side by side, in harmony each being used appropriately.

If the programme of daily handwriting lessons in this booklet are followed systematically, letters will soon be well formed, joined and of the correct size. Each lesson is intended to last only fifteen to twenty minutes. *Doing a little and doing it often is the key.* There are many important jigsaw pieces to fit in place, such as good quality writing tools and correct body posture, but within a school, uniformity of approach to teaching handwriting and the need for teachers to have high expectations of themselves and their pupils are vital.

When taught effectively, handwriting is where children will see the biggest change and fastest improvement in their work; progress they are able to see, feel and enjoy. Good teaching of handwriting reaps rewards in a very short time span. It gives children something immediate. Self esteem and motivation levels rise, influencing children's attitudes to learning in other subjects. It also plays a part in their personal development because care, pride, concentration and perseverance are required qualities.

Good handwriting needs self discipline, skill and quality teacher input. Good handwriting gives the reader a favourable impression of the work in front of them before they read the first three words. Children must be taught to present their work in as careful and attractive a manner as possible.