**Riverside Junior School**

Handwriting Policy – 2020-2021

RATIONALE:

At Riverside Junior School we expect children to take pride in their work. We see the teaching of handwriting as an important part of the curriculum, not only enabling children to develop an effective means of communication but also encouraging them to become increasingly aware of the importance of clear and neat presentation. The ability to write fluently and legibly gives children a means to communicate their thoughts and ideas effectively.

PURPOSE - We aim to help each child:

* To develop a fluent, comfortable, legible handwriting style
* To become increasingly confident and independent as writers
* To develop an appreciation of a variety of writing styles
* To appreciate the need for different forms of handwriting
* To develop the ability to choose the correct form of handwriting for different purposes in order to enhance work in all areas of the curriculum
* To have the experience of a variety of handwriting tools and understand the importance of clear presentation in order to communicate meaning
* To take pride in the presentation of work, developing handwriting with a sense of enjoyment and achievement
* To be able to write quickly to aid expressing themselves creatively and imaginatively across the curriculum and for a range of purposes

GUIDE LINES – To implement these expectations we will:

* Teach relevant skills to develop hand/eye co-ordination
* Encourage children to adopt good posture, paper position and pencil hold
* Encourage children to consider fitness for purpose of different forms of handwriting through discussion and example, e.g. print for labelling maps and diagrams, a clear, neat hand for finished, presented work or a faster script for notes
* All classrooms will contain a variety of writing tools which children can explore
* Handwriting will be linked to the development of spelling ability and confidence

Through direct teaching of handwriting children will be taught to:

* have the correct pencil grip
* write from left to right and from top to bottom
* write both lower case and upper case letters
* start and finish letters correctly
* be consistent with the size and shape of letters and the spacing of letters and words
* Sit letters on the line, and ensure that ascenders reach the appropriate height, and that descenders sit below the line

CONCLUSION:

Through a consistent approach that is responsive to individual need and development, children will develop confidence and handwriting skills that ensure their work is legible and well presented.