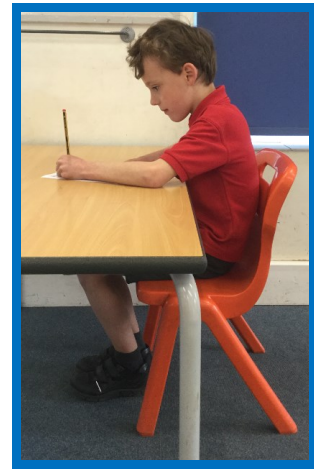


Writing Position

It is essential that pupils are taught how to sit in the correct writing position at a table with the correct posture to support them to write comfortably. To support this, pupils require a chair which enables their feet to be flat on the floor and their knees to bend at a right-angle. The table should be at a height that leaves space between the knees and the underside of the table. When considering the height of the table, children should be able to place the elbow of their dominant hand on the table surface comfortably.

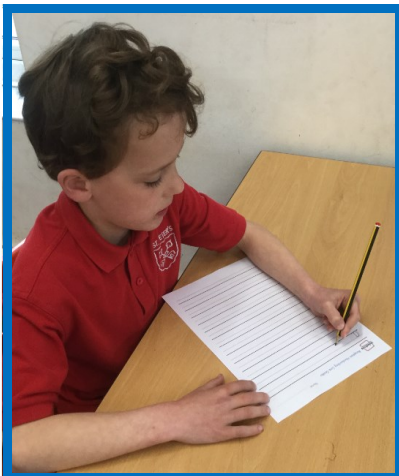
To achieve the correct writing position, children must do the following:

1. Sit to the back of the chair.
2. Tuck the chair in.
3. Put both feet flat on the floor.
4. Straighten their back and lean slightly forward.



5. Position and tilt the paper.
The non-dominant hand should be used to keep the paper still and to slide the paper up as the child writes instead of the child's writing hand moving lower down the table.

Left-handed children should place the paper slightly over to the left-hand side and tilt the page slightly to the right.



Right-handed children should place the paper slightly over to the right-hand side and tilt the page slightly to the left.



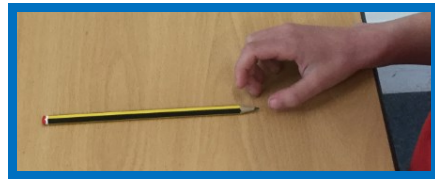
Pencil Grip

To support pupils to write fluently and with pace, it is essential that the correct pencil grip is mastered and maintained in order to enable efficient pencil control. It is important to get pencil grip right from the very start to avoid inaccurate habits being embedded. It is suggested that a triangular shaped pencil is used in the early stages of writing to support pupils to manipulate their fingers into the correct position and maintain the correct grip. Using a thin pencil too soon can encourage a pencil grip that is too firm.

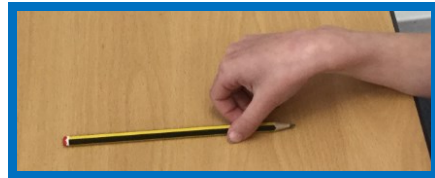
Pupils are taught how to use the correct pencil grip with the strategy '**Point, Pinch and Flip**'.

To achieve the correct pencil grip, children must do the following:

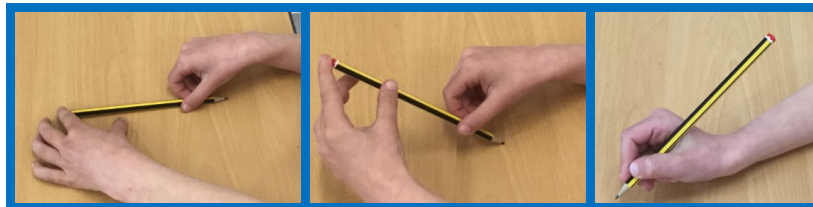
- 1) Place the pencil on a flat surface, with the sharp end of the pencil pointing towards their body.



- 2) Use their thumb and index finger on their writing hand to pinch near the pointed end of the pencil. This should be approximately 2-3cm above the tip.



- 3) Use their non-dominant hand to push the blunt end up and over to flip the pencil into position.



Left-handed children

We must be mindful that left-handed children may find it challenging to mimic skills modelled to them by a right-handed teacher. It is therefore integral that we know which children in our class are left-handed and provide these children with individual/group modelling. This is important for pencil grip, writing position, paper position and also for teaching letter formation.

When planning seating arrangements for left-handed children, consider seating left-handed pupils to the left of a right-handed child to give them the space needed to write without arms clashing.

If a left-handed child holds the pencil too close to the tip, it will impede their ability to see the letters they have formed. Therefore, left-handed children should hold the pencil slightly further up the pencil than a right-handed peer.

It is important to note that a left-handed child will push the pencil when writing as oppose to pulling it across the page like a right-handed child. For this reason, left-handed children should not use a pencil that is too sharp as this will inhibit their ability to write smoothly.

