



# OLA Curriculum Principles

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The OLA Curriculum has five principles at its core:



It teaches the **G**ospel values of humility, compassion, justice, kindness, peace, courage, forgiveness and integrity that shape the way we live and learn together and our response to the real life issues that will be encountered through our global curriculum.



It provides quality **O**pportunities for reading to ensure the future success of our pupils.



It instils a sense of **S**ocial justice and respect for human life and the natural world.



It has a quality **PE**dagogical methodology at its core to ensure that all pupils achieve well with built in opportunities for modelling, quality questioning, retrieval practice, guided instruction, independent practice and review along with hands-on activities add to our pupil's cultural capital.



And finally, it will **L**ead to deeper pupil learning experiences through connected vertical concepts or Big Ideas: community, human rights, stewardship, resilience, equality, technology, health and wonder.

At Our Lady of the Angels school, **Handwriting** is taught as a vital skill that empowers children to communicate **with clarity, confidence, and creativity**. Our intent is to nurture handwriting from the earliest stages of mark-making through to fluent, joined script. We provide structured opportunities for children to develop **fine motor control, spatial awareness, and stamina**, ensuring progression that is age-appropriate and inclusive.

Every child is supported to achieve **legible**, confident handwriting. We adapt teaching to meet diverse needs, ensuring that handwriting remains a joyful, achievable skill for all learners. Lessons are designed to be interactive and engaging, blending movement, art, and reflection. We encourage children to take pride in their handwriting, seeing it as part of their personal and academic identity. Fluent handwriting supports literacy, freeing cognitive resources for spelling, grammar, and creative writing. Our intent is for pupils to see handwriting as integral to their success across all subjects.

Our Handwriting curriculum fosters a love of writing by ensuring that pupils experience:

- ✓ **Joyful beginnings** - Children are introduced to handwriting through playful, creative activities—patterns, shapes, and letter stories—so writing feels like discovery rather than drill.
- ✓ **Confidence through progress** - Step-by-step progression ensures every child experiences success, building pride in their achievements and the celebration of small milestones (first joined letters, neat spacing) helps pupils see handwriting as a journey worth enjoying.
- ✓ **Opportunities for personal expression** - Opportunities to use handwriting in creative contexts - stories, prayers, reflections, letters - show its power to communicate meaningfully.
- ✓ **The value of practice** - Lessons nurture patience, perseverance and courage. Children learn that mistakes are part of growth, fostering kindness towards themselves and others.