



LEECHPOOL CURRICULUM Newsletter



Number & Letter Formation

Correct number and letter formation is a skill that is being continually practised in school as it is a vital academic skill that will help them throughout their academic career and beyond.

At a basic level, good formation makes it easier for children to read and understand what they have written, which is crucial to enable them to communicate their work effectively to themselves and others. In turn, this will enable children—with practise—to be able to increase the speed that they can write while still writing legibly. This will then enable them to get through more content; therefore, they will be able to retrieve more of the learning and so will remember more in the long term. Not only this, but good number and letter formation can help children develop a sense of pride and accomplishment. We want our children at Leechpool to experience success in these three areas so they feel a sense of progress and success.

There are a few things that you can do to support your child in correct number and letter formation: encourage them to practise writing regularly, provide them with opportunities to use their handwriting in meaningful ways (a few examples can be writing letters/cards to family and friends, writing stories, writing shopping lists, writing labels for objects, creating posters, writing thank you notes), and be patient and supportive as they learn and practise these skills.

Cultural Diversity in West Sussex and our Curriculum

The notion of 'cultural diversity' is a broad one, which includes children and young people from widely different backgrounds, ranging from those who are newly arrived in the UK, to those whose families have been in the UK for three or four generations and whose experience around diversity will be completely different. In addition, there are also British white and mixed heritage young people who will have varying experiences of cultural diversity within their own families and social networks.

In January 2021, the ethnicity of over 20% of all pupils on roll in West Sussex schools was recorded as being a minority ethnic category. At Leechpool, this is over 25% as of the 27th January 2023.

Ethnicity	Percentage in West Sussex (school census Jan 2021)	Percentage at Leechpool Primary School
White British	78.6% includes White English (3.7%)	73.7%
Other White Backgrounds	6.9%	3.3%
Mixed or Dual Background	5.4% includes White & Asian (1.6%)	4.5% includes White & Asian (1.2%) & White and Black African (0.7%)
Asian or Asian British	5.3% includes Indian (1.7%) & Pakistani (1.3%)	1.9% Includes Indian (0.5%) & Pakistani (0.2%) & Bangladeshi (0.2%)
Black or Black British	1.6% includes Black African (1.0%)	0%
Chinese	0.3%	0%
Other Ethnic Groups	0.7%	1%
Not Obtained / Refused	1.2%	15.6%

For a cohesive community, it is important for all pupils in West Sussex to be aware of and comfortable with differences and diversity of ethnicity, culture and language. By far the largest ethnic group among West Sussex pupils is White British and so a focus on this is considered even more pressing in majority white schools than in schools in which cultural diversity is the norm. Specific attention needs to be paid to ensure that this is addressed through curriculum delivery. Some of the questions that our curriculum leaders are currently thinking about and using to adapting our curriculum are as follows:

- *What is the message that we are giving pupils about who has intellectual authority and deserves to be listened to?*
- *Whose stories are being told? Who wrote those stories? Whose voices and perspectives are missing from the record?*
- *Does your subject's curriculum feature equal representation and diversity in its widest sense?*



Year 6—World Book Day Café



Year 1—Great Fire of London