

Writing and Drawing

Alternative methods of recording work

For some older children or young people, it is beneficial to promote alternatives to handwriting.

If handwriting problems prevent them achieving their full potential, these alternatives could be considered:

For students:

- Use of a 'dictaphone' or voice recording device to dictate
- Using a word processor system - especially for when presentation is required
- Using diagrams, spider diagrams and mind maps
- Allow the use of a laptop in the class
- A good resource for IT information is Ability Net t: 0800 269545 w: www.abilitynet.co.uk. Their helpline provides up to date information about suitable IT equipment and suppliers
- If typing is considered, they would benefit from practicing using a structured typing programme like:
 - BBC Dance Mat
 - Typing Club
 - How to Type
 - Typing Academy
 - Nitro Type
 - Popcorn Typer
- Writing key points only when taking notes
- Using plans when writing a story - divide into sections and write key points
- Using answer sheets where the gaps need to be filled in

For teachers:

- Request photocopied notes where possible
- Request extra time for children with handwriting difficulties
- It is important to consider that a child may be concentrating so hard on their writing that they may miss verbal instructions
- Request that the child sits at the front of the class near the board