



Beech Green Primary School

'Respect Achieve Belong'

Left Handers Policy 2026-2027

1. Policy Statement

Beech Green Primary School is committed to providing an inclusive learning environment in which all pupils can thrive. Left-handedness is a natural variation affecting approximately 10% of the population. We recognise that many classroom practices and resources are traditionally designed for right-handed users, and we therefore take proactive steps to ensure left-handed pupils are fully supported in all aspects of school life.

Our approach is underpinned by our core values:

- Respect – recognising and valuing individual differences
- Achieve – ensuring left-handed pupils have equal opportunities to succeed and reach their full potential
- Belong – creating an environment where left-handed pupils feel included, confident, and supported

2. Aims

- To ensure left-handed pupils can access learning comfortably and effectively
- To promote confidence and independence in left-handed learners
- To provide appropriate resources and adaptations where necessary
- To ensure consistency of practice across the school
- To raise staff awareness of the needs of left-handed pupils

3. Principles

- Pupils will never be encouraged to change their natural hand preference
- Inclusive teaching practices will be used at all times
- Adjustments will be made where needed to remove barriers to learning.

4. Teaching and Learning

4.1 Writing and Classroom Organisation

Staff will:

- Seat left-handed pupils on the left side of shared tables where possible
- Ensure adequate working space to avoid elbow clashes
- Support appropriate paper positioning (tilted slightly to the right)
- Encourage a relaxed and effective pencil grip
- Promote good posture and wrist position
- Provide writing tools that reduce smudging where necessary

4.2 Handwriting

Staff will:

- Model letter formation in ways accessible to left-handed pupils
- Sit opposite pupils when demonstrating, or model using the left hand where appropriate
- Allow additional time for handwriting development where needed
- Provide structured or lined paper to support presentation

- Offer gentle correction and guidance without discouragement

5. Resources and Equipment

The school will provide access to appropriate equipment, including:

- Left-handed scissors
- Ergonomic pens and pencils
- Pencil grips where appropriate
- Suitable sharpeners

Staff are responsible for ensuring these resources are available and accessible.

6. Curriculum Areas

6.1 Music

Staff will:

- Be aware that some instruments may require adaptation for left-handed use
- Provide left-handed options where possible (e.g. guitars, violins)
- Allow flexibility in how instruments are held and played
- Avoid assumptions about hand use

6.2 Physical Education (PE)

Staff will:

- Demonstrate skills using both left and right sides where possible
- Encourage pupils to use their dominant hand
- Provide appropriate equipment (e.g. bats, sticks) where available
- Consider positioning during group and partner activities

6.3 Art and DT

Staff will:

- Provide suitable tools for left-handed use
- Allow flexibility in approach to tasks
- Ensure workspace layout supports left-handed pupils

6.4 ICT

Staff will:

- Adjust mouse settings if required
- Offer alternative input methods where appropriate

7. Inclusion and Wellbeing

The school will:

- Promote positive attitudes towards left-handedness
- Address any teasing or misconceptions promptly
- Foster an inclusive classroom culture where differences are respected
- Ensure left-handed pupils feel a strong sense of belonging within the school community
- Support pupils to achieve their best without barriers related to hand preference
- Encourage mutual respect among all pupils

8. Staff Responsibilities

All staff are responsible for:

- Being aware of this policy
- Implementing inclusive practices in their teaching
- Ensuring appropriate resources are available

Subject leaders are responsible for:

- Monitoring implementation of the policy
- Providing training and guidance as needed

9. Working with Parents and Carers

The school will:

- Communicate with parents about support strategies
- Encourage consistency between home and school
- Provide advice where requested