



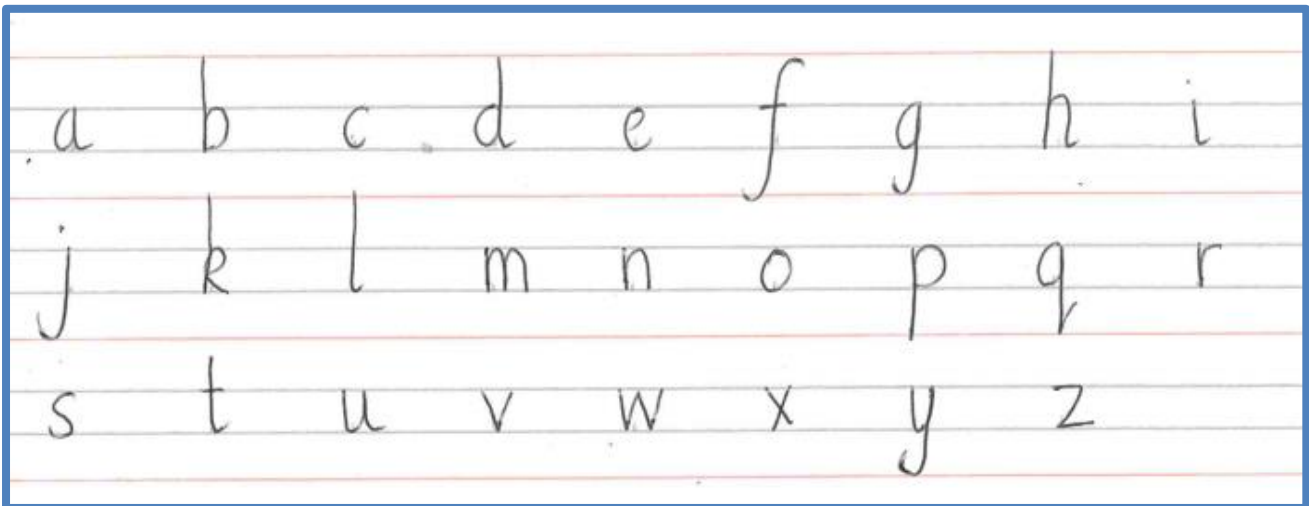
Handwriting – A Guide for our Parents and Carers

Early Years Foundation Stage:

When children start school in EYFS they are supported to develop their gross motor skills, fine motor and mark making before letter formation is introduced. The children complete the ABC (Achieving Body Control) programme and FMS (Fine Motor Skills) programme from the Hampshire therapy pack. Before the children are able to form letters we develop their cross lateral mark making by ensuring they can form the following shapes.



Once they can form these shapes we begin to introduce letter formation alongside phonic teaching and the introduction of different letters (graphemes) and sounds (phonemes). We have decided to adopt a non-cursive script. The children will be supported to adopt this style right from the very beginning of their school years. They will continue to read and recognise phonemes around them in different styles, reflecting the world around them.



During Key Stage 1:

Year 1 Aim: to develop the physical skills needed for handwriting

- Pupils will learn how to sit correctly at a table
- Hold a pencil comfortably using the tripod grip
- Children will learn letter formations in family groups (**dirt letters** – those which go below the line, **grass letters** – those which sit on the line, **sky letters** – those which go above the line)
- Continue to form lower-case and upper-case letters in the correct direction and orientation on the line

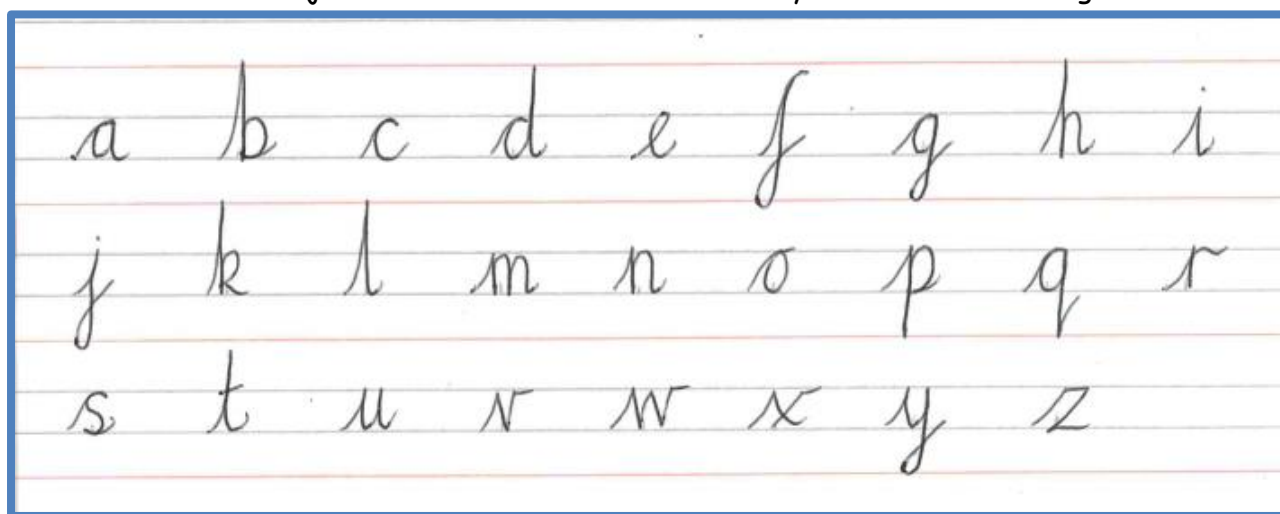
- When learning digraphs and trigraphs in phonics, the children will learn the letters which form 1 sound in a joined cursive.
- Pupils will learn to leave spaces between words
- Form digits 0-9

Year 2 Aim: To establish good handwriting habits

- Form lower-case letters of the correct size relative to one another
- Write capital letters and digits of the correct size and orientation
- Use spacing between words that reflects the size of letters
- Begin to use some of the diagonal and horizontal strokes required to join letters

Key Stage 2:

As the children's letter formation becomes more confident and fluent they will be introduced to lead in strokes in order to join letters and increase the fluency of their handwriting.



Lower Key Stage 2:

Years 3 & 4 Aim: Begin to join letters, pupils should now be able to use it fast enough to keep pace with what they want to say.

- Use the diagonal and horizontal strokes required to join letters
- Increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting

Upper Key Stage 2:

Years 5 & 6 Aim: To use a clear and fluent style, to write at speed and show awareness of when different handwriting styles may be needed.

- Write legibly, fluently with increasing speed by:
- Choosing which shape of a letter to use when given choices and deciding, as part of their personal style, whether or not to join specific letters.
- Choosing the writing implement that is best suited for a task (e.g. quick notes, letters etc)

As the children move into KS2 and are struggling to meet their year aims, they will be supported with handwriting interventions. These include 'Write from the Start' and 'Speed Up'