



Handwriting



Our handwriting style

EYFS & Year 1 – Simple modern cursive - print.

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

Years 2, 3 & 4 – when letter formation is secure, joining is taught. Break letters left un-joined.

ab cdefg hij klmnop q rstuvwxyz

Years 5&6 – Fully cursive










abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Little Wandle Letter families and formation







1. Curly caterpillar c, o, a, e, d, g, s, f
2. Long letter family l, i, t, j, u, y
3. Bouncy letter m, n, r, b, p, h
4. Zig-zag letter v, w, x, z, k

Little Wandle Lower-case formation phrases







Curly letter family

Letter mnemonic	Formation phrase	Letter mnemonic	Formation phrase
	Curl around the cat.		Around the queen's face, down her robe and a flick at the end.
	Around the astronaut's helmet and down into space.		Around the elephant's eye and curl down its trunk.
	Around the duck's body, up to its head and down to its feet.		Down the snake from head to tail.
	Around the goat's face and curl under its chin.		Down the flamingo to its foot and across its wings.
	All around the octopus.		






Long letter family

Letter mnemonic	Formation phrase	Letter mnemonic	Formation phrase
	Down the lollipop stick.		Down the jellyfish and dot its head.
	Down the iguana and dot the leaf.		Down and around the umbrella and back to the ground.
	Down the tiger and across its neck.		Down, around the yo-yo and curl around the string.







Bouncy Letter family







Letter mnemonic	Formation phrase	Letter mnemonic	Formation phrase
	Down, up and over the mouse's ears.		Down the bear's back, up and around its tummy.
	Down, up and over the net.		Down the penguin's back, up and around its head.
	From the cloud to the ground and over the rainbow.		Down, up and over the helicopter.

Zig-zag letter family

Letter mnemonic	Formation phrase	Letter mnemonic	Formation phrase
	Down to the bottom of the volcano and back up to the top.		Across the top of the zebra's head, zig-zag down its neck and along.
	Down and up and down and up the waves.		Down the kite, up to the top corner and down to the bottom corner.
	From the top, across the box to the bottom. From the top again, across the box to the bottom.		

Capital letter formation phrases

Letter mnemonic	Formation phrase
	From the top, diagonally down to the left, up to the top, diagonally down to the right. Lift up and across.
	From the top, down, back to the top. Round to the middle, round to the bottom.
	From the top, curl around to the left to sit on the line.
	From the top, down, back to the top. Curve right, down to the bottom.
	From the top, down, back to the top. Across, back. Lift up and across the middle. Lift up and across the bottom line.
	From the top, down, back to the top. Across, back. Lift up and across the middle.

Letter mnemonic	Formation phrase
	From the top, curl around to the line, carry on up, then straight down. Lift up and across.
	From the top and down. Space. From the top and down. Lift up and join the lines across the middle.
	From the top to the bottom and stop.
	From the top, all the way down, then short curl to the left.
	From the top, down, up to the middle. Diagonally up, back and diagonally down to the line.
	From the top, down and across the line.

M	From the top, down, back to the top. Diagonally down, diagonally up. Straight down to the line.	V	From the top diagonally right to the bottom, then diagonally up to the top.
N	From the top, down, back to the top. Diagonally down, then straight up to the top.	W	From the top diagonally right to the bottom, diagonally up to the top, diagonally down to the line, then diagonally up again.
O	From the top - all around the o.	X	From the top, diagonally right to the bottom. Space. Start at the top, then diagonally left to the bottom.
P	From the top, down then back up. Curve right to halfway down.	Y	From the top diagonally right to the middle. Space. From the top diagonally left to the middle. Straight down to the bottom.
Q	From the top - all around the o. Lift off. Short line diagonally down.	Z	From the top go across, diagonally down to the left and across the bottom.
R	From the top, down, then back up. Curve right to halfway down. Diagonally down to the line.		
S	From the top, curl around to the left. Then curl around to the right to make a snake shape.		
T	From the top, down and stop. Lift up and from the left, make a line across the top.		
U	From the top, down and curve right, then straight up to the top.		

Letters Joins – Writing Framework 2025

Key Stage 1

Diagonal and horizontal joins

Pupils should be taught two basic joins: diagonal joins and horizontal joins.

The diagonal join connects:

Letters from the line to small letters

Letters from the line to tall letters

Letters from the line to a, d, g, c, o, q

(These letters need an extra stroke backwards across the top of a, d, g, c, o.)

The horizontal join connects:

v, w, x, f, r **to** small letters

v, w, x, f, r **to** tall letters

v, w, x, f, r **to** a, d, g, c, o, q

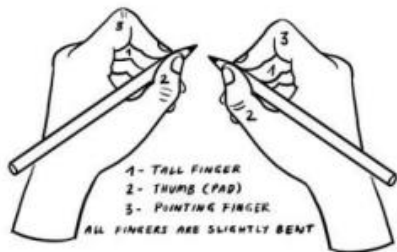
Key Stage 2

Year 3&4: Break letters that aren't joined from: b, g, j, p, q, x, y, z, s;

Year 5&6: Joining for speed with hooks, lines and loops.

Sitting Position and Pencil Grip

Finger positioning using the tripod grip:



Paper position for left-handers:



Paper position for right-handers:



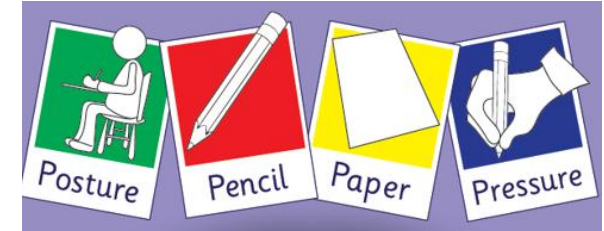
Good Practice for Handwriting – The 4 P's

Posture: Sit up straight.

Pencil grip: Pick up your pencil. Pinch, pinch, pinch, flip.

Paper position: Tilt your paper.

Pressure: Not too hard, not too light.



(The Handwriting Association)

Teaching Handwriting

EYFS: Daily practise of individual letter formation, sizing and pencil strokes. Taught separately to phonics. (15 minutes).

Key Stage 1: Daily practise of individual letter formation, sizing and first joins. Helping children to progress from accuracy to fluency – outside of phonics lesson (15 minutes).

Key Stage 2: Three handwriting sessions (15-20 minutes) a week to develop confidence and fluency. Direct, intervention, support and explicit feedback for individual children based on AFL. **Daily handwriting interventions (15 minutes) where necessary.**

Celebrating Handwriting

Children who have made fantastic progress or demonstrate excellent consistency for handwriting will have the opportunity to win handwriting awards.