



Handwriting – Parents/Carers Guide

In our school we use the Nelson scheme of handwriting to ensure progression and consistency across all year groups. This guide is intended to give you more information about how your child will be taught to form and join letters and numbers. This outlines the pace at which the children are expected to progress through the scheme, however, it may be necessary to re-visit areas of the scheme if a child requires more practise. Should you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher.

EYFS & Year 1

Children learn to form individual letters and numbers, starting and finishing in the correct place. Particular focus is given to sitting correctly at the table and holding a pencil correctly. Children will be taught to form letters and numbers in this way:



Year 2

Children who are able to form individual letters correctly will begin to learn basic handwriting joins. Some letters detailed below are introduced as 'break letters' and are not joined to the following letter. To begin with, Year 2 will not join the letter s although some children will go on to learn to join the letter s later in the year. Pupils are taught basic handwriting joins in this order:

The Four Joins

1. to letters without ascenders
2. to letters with ascenders
3. horizontal joins
4. horizontal joins to letters with ascenders



The break letters (letters that aren't joined **from**) are:

b g j p q x y z s

Year 3

Children will re-cap basic joins already taught in Year 2. They will develop their skills working through Nelson scheme book 1.

Year 4

Children will continue to develop their skills working through Nelson scheme book 2.

Year 5

Children should have a well- developed handwriting style by Year 5. They will continue to develop and practise their skills working through Nelson scheme book 3 and will be introduced to methods of joining break letters, should they prefer to do so.

Year 6

Children will consolidate their handwriting skills and develop their own style, working through Nelson developing Skills Book 4. This may be supplemented or replaced by handwriting linked to SPAG (spelling, punctuation and grammar) work, according to individual needs.