



Why is handwriting important?

Handwriting is the precursor to all written learning. In order for children to make accurate progress and develop their ideas, they need to be able to record them in neat, legible script. Writing is one of the most cognitively demanding task we ask children to do. Unlike oracy, writing is not biologically primary. To reduce this cognitively demanding task, children must be able to transcribe fluently, with automaticity.

When does handwriting take place?

Handwriting takes place every day.

Year group	When does it take place	Where is it recorded
EYFS	During phonics and in areas.	
Year 1	Handwriting 13:30-13:45	Handwriting book with the short date at the top
Year 2	Basic Skills 10:00-10:30	Handwriting book with the short date at the top
Year 3 and 4	Basic Skills 09:00-09:30 and 13:25-13:35	Basic Skills book or designated handwriting book if there are significant concerns
Year 4 and 5	Basic Skills 09:00-09:30 and 13:15-14:00	Basic Skills book or designated handwriting book if there are significant concerns
Year 6	Basic Skills 12:00-12:30	Basic Skills book or designated handwriting book if there are significant concerns

In EYFS, handwriting takes place during the delivery of phonics where the teacher will guide children in their letter formation. Furthermore, they have a writing rich environment in which they have constant access to writing materials along with supports and scaffolds for letter formation. Finally, they will practise letter formation daily with adult support.

If it is found that a child has a specific issue with handwriting and letter formation, then children will be taken out of class for intervention.

What does handwriting look like?

EYFS:

Year 1:

Handwriting should follow the Letter Join handwriting scheme. Resources from the website are available to use. It is an expectation that children will complete a mixture of worksheets and practice writing on the lines in their book. They will complete the work in their handwriting book with the short date at the top of each session. In Year 1 we use the Letter Join Air Plus font.

Year 2:

Handwriting should follow the Letter Join handwriting scheme. Resources from the website are available to use. It is an expectation that children will complete a mixture of worksheets and practice writing on the lines in their book. They will complete the work in their handwriting book with the short date at the top of each session. Should their handwriting reach a suitable standard that it is no longer an additional cognitive load, then they will be awarded a pen license. In Year 2 we use Letter Join Plus 6 font.

Year 3 – Year 6:

Handwriting could follow one of two approaches. If letter formation and handwriting are not a concern, then children will complete statutory spelling words as their handwriting to ensure consistency in handwriting. If handwriting has been identified as a concern for this child, then they will follow the handwriting recovery approach on LetterJoin in a designated handwriting book with appropriate lines to support their learning. Should their handwriting reach a suitable standard that it is no longer an additional cognitive load, then they will be awarded a pen license, however it would be the expectation that by the end of Year 4 all children were using pens unless there is a significant weakness there.