



Progression in Handwriting

| | Reception | Year 1 and 2 | Year 3 and 4 | Year 5 and 6 |
|------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Readiness for writing | <p>Develop gross and fine motor skills and patterns which lead to letter formation.</p> <p>Hold a pencil between first two fingers and thumb and use it with good control.</p> <p>Practise and use anticlockwise movements and retrace vertical lines both in the air and on paper.</p> <p>Show a preference for a dominant hand.</p> | <p>Sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly.</p> <p>Develop strength and stamina in the intrinsic muscles of the hand to hold and manoeuvre the pen or pencil.</p> | | |
| Forming letters | <p>Begin to form recognisable letters, starting and finishing in the correct place.</p> <p>Copy some letters, e.g. letters from their name.</p> <p>Show control over letter size, shape and orientation of lower-case letters.</p> | <p>Begin to form lowercase letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place.</p> <p>Leave spaces between words.</p> <p>Form capital letters.</p> <p>Form digits 0-9.</p> <p>Write capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower-case letters</p> <p>Use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters.</p> | <p>Increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting [for example, by ensuring that the downstrokes of letters are parallel and equidistant.]</p> <p>Know that lines of writing are spaced sufficiently so that the ascenders and descenders of letters do not touch</p> | |
| Fluency | | <p>Begin to use diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined.</p> | <p>Use diagonal and horizontal strokes to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined.</p> | <p>Increase the speed of their handwriting so that problems with forming letters does not slow them down.</p> <p>Have a clear knowledge of the standard of handwriting which is appropriate for a particular task, e.g. quick notes or a final handwritten version.</p> |