

| Progression in handwriting | | |
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| | Letter formation and understanding | Behaviours/ handwriting style |
| Reception | <p>Print letters: be taught the correct start and exit points for each letter, which should not include lead-in strokes from the line</p> <p>Form capital letters and corresponding lower-case letters</p> <p>Use capital 'I' for personal pronoun</p> | <p>Sit correctly on a chair at a table</p> <p>Learn to hold pencil correctly and practise pencil grip</p> <p>Use spaces between words</p> |
| Y1 | <p>Print letters as above, orientating correctly on the line</p> <p>Form capital letters and lower-case letters correctly and confidently, starting and finishing in the right place</p> <p>Practise letters belonging to 'families' which are formed in similar ways e.g. <i>c, o, g, d</i></p> <p>Form digits 0-9</p> | <p>Use spaces between words</p> <p>Hold pencil comfortably and correctly</p> <p>Adult: model pre-cursive letters when ready – optional</p> <p>Practise separate pre-cursive letters when ready – optional</p> |
| Y2 | <p>Form and orientate lower-case letters the correct size relative to one another</p> <p>Write capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to other letters e.g. <i>Monday; 50p</i></p> | <p>Use spaces between words that reflect the size of the letters</p> <p>Use diagonal and horizontal lines to join some lower-case letters when ready (not expected standard); this is indicated by secure letter formation and secure letter orientation</p> <p>Respond to dictation from an adult, handwriting words in sentences</p> |
| Y3 | <p>Lower case letters are distinct from capital letters, including those of same shape e.g. <i>cC, sS, wW</i></p> | <p>Join lower case letters using cursive style</p> <p>Maintain even-sized lettering</p> <p>Descenders and ascenders are appropriate and parallel to each other</p> |
| Y4 | <p>Check and correct any errors in letter formation</p> <p>Ensure even sized lower-case letters</p> | <p>Consider introducing ink pen – optional</p> <p>Check that lines are spaced sufficiently so that descenders and ascenders do not touch</p> <p>Build stamina and fluency to handwrite longer pieces</p> |
| Y5 | <p>Practise as required</p> <p>Check accuracy</p> | <p>Develop fluent and legible style</p> <p>Decide whether or not to join specific letters</p> |

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| Y6 | Practise as required | Choose the implement and writing style best suited for the task Write legibly and fluently with increasing speed |
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