

Helping your child with handwriting

By Year 4, children should be using a fluent, legible and joined handwriting style. Joined handwriting helps with spelling and composition as once a child uses a fluent style, it becomes second nature and requires less effort meaning greater flow with the work.

Handwriting is a physical skill and requires attention to detail.

Posture

Children should sit with two feet on the floor and their body should face the table they are using to lean on. The chair should be a comfortable distance from the table and the elbows and forearms should be able to rest on it. The non-writing hand should always support the book or piece of paper being written on.

Paper Position

The angle of the paper is very important, and differs depending on which hand you write with.

Right-handed Writers

- Angle the paper so that it slants slightly to the left.
- The left hand should be used to support the paper.

Left-handed Writers

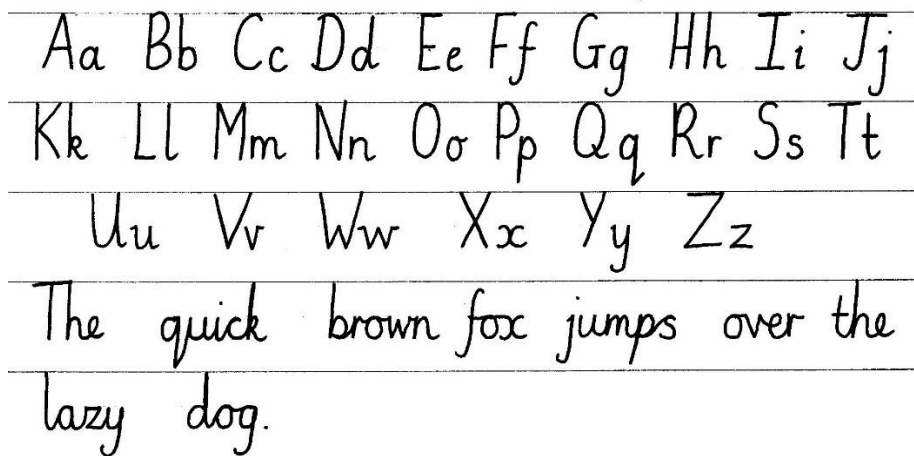
- Angle the paper so that it slants slightly to the right.
- The right hand should be placed above the left hand to support the paper and to allow the writer to see what is being written.

Pencil Grip

Children should be using a tripod pencil grip. This means that the pencil rests between the pads of the thumb and index finger. The pencil should rest on the middle finger but it should not grip the pencil. Writers should be encouraged to hold the pencil at least 2cm from the point so that they can see what they are writing. A relaxed tripod grip helps the pencil to move freely and flow.

Letter Formation

This is the handwriting style used at school:



Encourage the children to keep the letters regular in size and sitting on the line. Ascenders should be noticeably taller than the main part of the letter. The letters g, j and y do not join. The letters f and t should have ascenders that are three-quarters tall.