



Handwriting Policy

Reception Year:

- Children learn letter formation using mnemonics from the Little Wandle phonics scheme.
- Children are taught how to hold a pen correctly using a tripod grip, and use the phrase 'pick and flick' to position the pencil correctly.

Around the astronaut's helmet and down into space.	Down the bear's back, up and round its tummy.	Curly around the cat.	Round the duck's body, up to its head and down to its feet.	Around the elephant's eye and curl down its trunk.	Down the flamingo to its foot and across its wings.	Round the goat's face and curl under its chin.	Down, up and over the helicopter.	Down the iguana and dot the leaf.
Down the jellyfish and dot its head.	Down the kite, up and around down to the corner.	Down the lollipop stick.	Down, up and over the mouse's ears.	Down, up and over the net.	All around the octopus.	Down the penguin's back, up and around its head.	Round the queen's face, up to her crown, down her robe with a flick at the end.	From the cloud to the ground and over the rainbow.
Down the snake from head to tail.	Down the tiger and across its neck.	Down and around the umbrella, and back to the ground.	Down to the bottom of the volcano and back up to the top.	Down and up and down and up the waves.	From the top, across the box to the bottom. From the top again across the box to the bottom.	Down, around the yo-yo and curl round the string.	Across the top of the zebra's head, zig-zag down its neck and along.	

End of year expectation:

To form some lowercase and capital letters. This may not be following clockwise/ anti-clockwise patterns, and writing may not be on the line.

Year 1 and 2

- Children will continue to use the Little Wandle phrases if necessary. Children have laminated copies of the Little Wandle letter formation poster and the cursive letter formation poster available when writing.
- When teaching handwriting, teachers model both the print version, and the cursive version alongside it.
- When modelling writing, teachers use the print version and may use the cursive version later in the year.
- When writing in children's books, teachers use the letter formation appropriate to the child's writing level.
- When ready, children are taught handwriting lessons using handwriting books with guide lines.

End of Key Stage 1 expectation:

Children are using joined writing fluently with increasing legibility.

KS2

- Teachers model and teach cursive handwriting letter formation. Each letter is joined using diagonal strokes. Capital letters and contractions are not joined.



- Please note, the f can be written as either a double loop or hook shape (not pictured).
- Some children in lower key stage 2 may continue to use separated letters with lead ins to prepare for joined writing. In rare cases, some children may continue to use the Little Wandle shapes and phrases.
- Handwriting practice may take place in handwriting books with guidelines to learn the correct height of letters, in the back of English books or in SODA books.

Pen licenses will be awarded when:

- Handwriting is consistently legible.
- Diagonal strokes join letters.
- Letter size is consistent and in relation to adjacent letters.
- Words sit neatly on the line.

End of Year 4 expectation:

Children's handwriting is consistently of good quality and legibility, and most children will have earned a pen licence.

Last updated – November 2025