



# Letter-join

## 2025/26

Subject Leader	T Oxley And K McBride		
Written:	2026		
Approved by:	English Curriculum Team	Meeting Date	04.02.26
Ratified:	Staff training day	Meeting Date	13.03.26
Review Cycle:	Annually		
Next review:	2027		



# Letter-join

The purpose of using Letterjoin in school is to ensure that students develop legible, fluent and consistent handwriting skills. Children must be able to write with ease, speed and legibility. Cursive handwriting teaches pupils to join letters and words as a series of flowing movements and patterns. The development of this fluid style when mastered allows children to apply their energy into the content of their writing as opposed to the formation of the letters themselves. Below outlines the expectations for handwriting at all stages of primary education and provides guidance for teachers to support students in improving their handwriting across the curriculum.

## Aims and Objectives

### Objectives

- To ensure students develop good handwriting habits that support clear communication.
- To promote consistency in handwriting across all subjects and year groups.
- To provide a framework for the teaching of handwriting that enables all students to reach their full potential.
- To encourage pride and confidence in students' writing.

### Handwriting Style

At Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School, we use the cursive (letter join) style of handwriting, depending on the stage of development.

- **Reception to Year 2**
  - Students will start by learning to form letters clearly and correctly using print.
  - As they progress, they will gradually be introduced to cursive handwriting in Year 1 summer term.
  - In Year 2 they will continue with the cursive writing and focus on letter formation, size, and spacing.
- **Years 3 to 6**
  - Students will refine their cursive handwriting and focus on improving fluency and speed while maintaining legibility.
  - Student will join their letters consistently.
  - We expect students to use cursive handwriting consistently across all subjects.
  - Pupils will become well versed with using a pen.



### Why Letter Join?

#### **1. Promotes Consistency in Handwriting Style**

- Letter-Join provides a consistent and clear approach to handwriting, offering a unified style for both teachers and students. This consistency helps students form letters and words correctly and uniformly across subjects, improving legibility and neatness in their writing.

#### **2. Supports the Development of Cursive Writing**

- Cursive handwriting is a key focus of Letter-Join, helping students develop fluidity and speed in writing. Cursive writing encourages a more natural flow of writing, as students connect letters and avoid unnecessary lifting of the pen, which can increase both writing speed and fluency over time.

#### **3. Aids in Fine Motor Skills Development**

- Learning to write in cursive involves the development of fine motor skills, such as hand-eye coordination and finger strength. Letter-Join helps students build these skills through structured activities that improve their ability to form letters and control their hand movements.

#### **4. Improves Legibility and Presentation**

- Letter-Join emphasizes the formation of each letter and the appropriate joining of letters. By practicing the correct formation and spacing, students tend to produce more legible and aesthetically pleasing handwriting, which can improve their overall academic presentation.

#### **5. Engages Students with Interactive Resources**

- Letter-Join is a digital platform that often includes interactive resources, such as animated letter formation videos, games, and activities that engage students. These resources make handwriting practice more enjoyable, which can increase students' motivation to improve their skills.

#### **6. Adaptable for Various Learning Styles**

- Letter-Join provides a range of materials that cater to different learning styles. For visual learners, the animations and examples of letter formation are especially helpful, while kinesthetic learners can benefit from the hands-on activities and practice sheets that focus on muscle memory.

#### **7. Provides Clear Progression and Structure**

- Letter-Join offers a structured progression from basic letter formation to more complex writing, which is aligned with the stages of development in handwriting. Students start with individual letters and advance to joined cursive writing, ensuring that their skills develop in a manageable and scaffolded way.

#### **8. Helps Students Transition from Print to Cursive**

- For younger students learning to form letters, Letter-Join provides clear guidelines for transitioning from print to cursive. By introducing cursive writing gradually and in a logical sequence, it helps students build confidence in their handwriting abilities.



**9. Supports Teachers with Assessment and Monitoring**

• The resources provided by Letter-Join can also assist teachers in tracking student progress, providing feedback and identifying areas where students may need additional support. Teachers can easily assess the development of students' handwriting through worksheets and interactive activities.

**10. Enhances Cognitive and Writing Skills**

• There is evidence suggesting that the act of writing by hand (especially cursive) can enhance cognitive skills such as memory, concentration, and creativity. Letter-Join supports these cognitive benefits by encouraging students to practice writing regularly, improving their overall academic performance.

**11. Encourages a Lifelong Skill**

• Cursive writing is a skill that students can carry with them throughout their education and into adulthood. The ability to write neatly and efficiently is valuable in both academic and professional settings, and Letter-Join helps students develop this important skill early on.

**In summary**, using Letter-Join in schools offers many benefits for both students and teachers, from improving handwriting legibility and fluency to enhancing cognitive development and fine motor skills. It provides a structured, engaging, and adaptable approach to handwriting that can help students develop a valuable skill that lasts a lifetime

**EYFS**

• **EYFS**

Handwriting activities are linked across the EYFS curriculum on a daily basis throughout the year. During the Reception years the children are given a wide range of opportunities to develop an understanding that writing conveys meaning, e.g. books, storytelling, signs, labels etc. Letter and number formation is taught in a variety of ways.

These include

- o the use of sand trays
- o tracing over patterns with pencils or paint
- o making patterns in the air
- o using different mediums, e.g. chalk, felt tips, pencils, crayons and markers

Children may write over and under teacher handwriting models in various forms. For those children that are ready for handwriting practice, large pencils are used. Pencil grips for correction of pencil hold are also used where appropriate.

As an introduction to handwriting patterns we will use the e.g. zig-zags, swirls, waves are practised and thinner pencils are introduced where appropriate. Adults will model the correct letter formation and children practise this during phonic sessions. Children practise name writing in non-joined style as they enter Reception.



#### **Year 1 to Year 2:**

- o Teachers will model correct letter formation regularly.
  - o Emphasis will be placed on starting letters from the correct position (top to bottom) and consistent size.
  - o In Year 1, cursive handwriting will be introduced starting with beginning each letter from the line.
- In Year 2 adults will model cursive writing from the beginning of the year. The children will be encouraged to continue the development of cursive handwriting which they should begin to transfer into all their independent writing.

#### **• Years 3 to 6:**

- o Teachers will model and provide opportunities for regular practice of cursive handwriting.
- o Focus will be placed on consistent slant, spacing between words, and writing at a uniform size.
- o Teachers will encourage students to write at a consistent pace and review work for neatness.

#### **Expectations for Students**

- Students should aim for neatness, legibility, and consistency in their handwriting.
- All work in books and on display should reflect high standards of handwriting, with particular attention given to writing that is neat, consistent, and appropriately spaced.
  
- Reception-Year 1: Letters should be correctly formed and spaced, with increasing fluency.
- Year 2: Students should use cursive handwriting with correct joins.
- Years 3-6: Students should write using fluent, legible cursive handwriting in all subjects. Letter sizing should be consistent.

#### **Presentation Guidelines**

- All writing should be on the line and neatly aligned.
- Students should leave a clear space between words and keep letters within the designated lines.
- Ascending letter and capital letters should reach near the top of the line.
- Descending letter should fill half of the line below.
- Capital letter must not be joined.

#### **Assessment and Monitoring**

- Handwriting will be monitored regularly, and feedback will be given to students during written tasks.
- Teachers will assess students' handwriting progress through regular observation during writing activities. Reviewing students' written work.
- o Providing written or verbal feedback for improvement.
- Specific handwriting targets may be set for students who need additional support or challenges in this area.



### Interventions

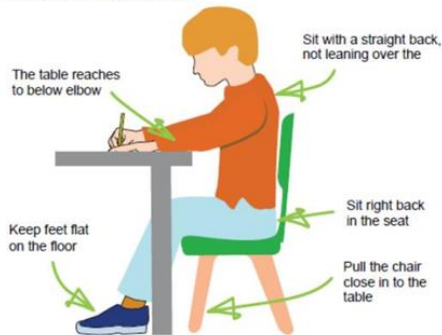
- Teachers will provide additional support through:
  - o One-on-one or small group interventions.
  - o Use of fine motor skills activities to improve dexterity.
  - o Adaptations such as the use of writing aids, sensory tools or keyboarding practice.
- For students with identified special educational needs, handwriting goals will be tailored and supported with appropriate resources. Staff will also discuss their concerns with the SENDCO.

### Teaching Handwriting

All pupils All pupils should be taught to hold a pencil correctly. Children should be encouraged to use a tripod pencil grip, where the pencil is gripped between the index finger and the thumb. The middle finger is then used to support the underside of the pencil as shown.

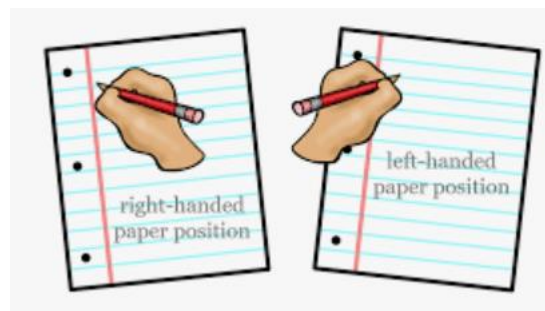


#### SITTING POSITION



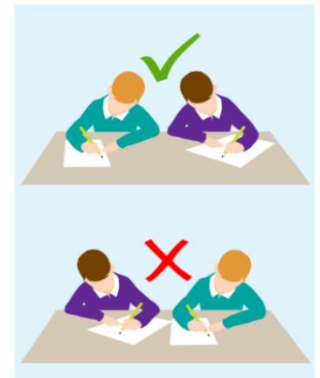
All pupils will adopt the correct posture when writing.

Children should be encouraged to adopt the correct writing position as shown (children who are left handed should reposition the paper the other way and sit at the end of a row if seated next to a right handed child.



#### Sitting position

Sit left-handed children to the left of their partner so they have plenty of room to write.



### Conclusion

Handwriting is a key skill that supports academic success across the curriculum. By ensuring that students are taught and expected to practice legible, consistent handwriting, we are providing them with the tools to communicate clearly and effectively.

All staff members are responsible for promoting high standards of handwriting across the school, and students are encouraged to take pride in their handwriting and presentation of work.

