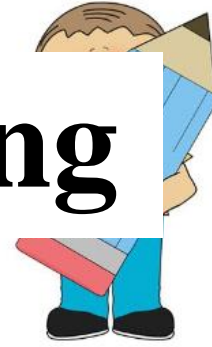




# Handwriting

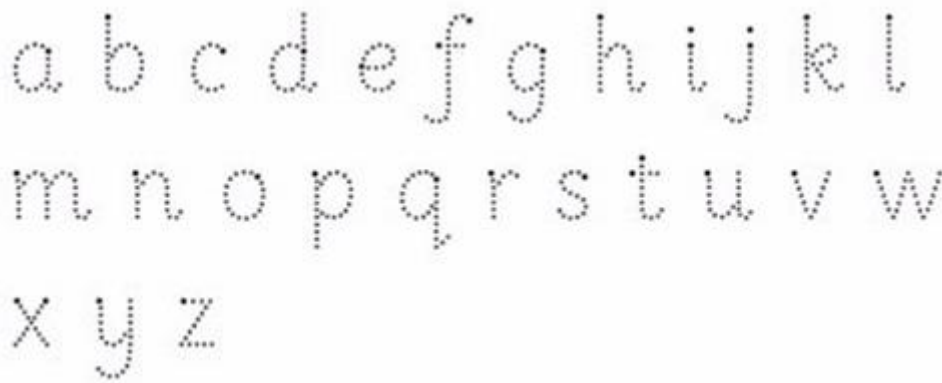


At Gusford we teach the children to write using a semi-cursive script. The letters (graphemes) should have a flick at the end of the letter to join it seamlessly onto the next letter.



The only letters we do not join are **g, j** and **y**.

In Foundation Stage children are taught to form each single letter correctly – with no joining to start with.



It is vital that they are taught to start each letter in the correct place. (see the dark dot for starting place.)

They are encouraged to hold the pencil in a tripod grip.



The **Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum** states:

## Physical Development:

30-50 months children should:

- Draw lines and circles using gross motor movements.
- Use one-handed tools and equipment, e.g. makes snips in paper with child scissors.
- Hold pencil between thumb and two fingers, no longer using whole-hand grasp.
- Hold pencil near point between first two fingers and thumb and uses it with good control.
- Copy some letters, e.g. letters from their name

40-60 months children should:

- Show a preference for a dominant hand.
- Begin to use anticlockwise movement and retrace vertical lines
- Begin to form recognisable letters
- Use a pencil and hold it effectively to form recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed.

## Early Learning Goal

- Children show good control and co-ordination in large and small movements..... They handle equipment and tools effectively, including pencils for writing.

In the National Curriculum for Key Stages 1 and 2 the expectations are:

### Year 1 pupils should be taught to:

- Sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly
- Begin to form lower-case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place
- Form capital letters
- Form digits 0-9
- Understand which letters belong to which handwriting 'families' (i.e. letters that are formed in similar ways) and to practise these
- Make links with phonics and spelling

### Year 2 pupils should be taught to:

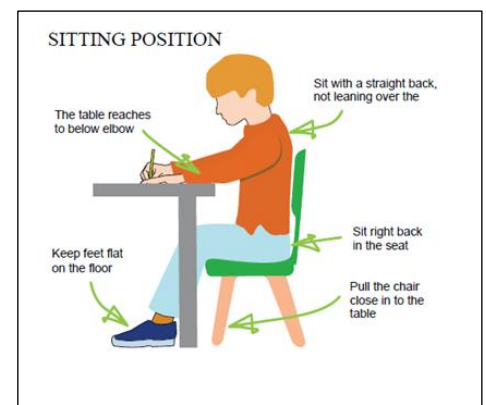
- Form lower-case letters of the correct size relative to one another
- Start using some of the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left not joined
- Write capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower case letters
- Use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters

### Year 3-4 pupils should be taught to:

- Use the diagonal and horizontal strokes that are needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left not joined
- Increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting, e.g. by ensuring that the down strokes of letters are parallel and equidistant; that lines of writing are spaced sufficiently so that the ascenders and descenders of letters do not touch.

### Year 5-6 pupils should be taught to:

- Write legibly, fluently, with increasing speed and personal style by:



- Choosing which shape of a letter to use when given choices and deciding, as part of their personal style, whether or not to join specific letters
- Choosing the writing implement that is best suited for a task (e.g. quick notes, letters)

Here is a useful website to help practice letter formation:

<http://www.doorwayonline.org.uk/letterformation.html>

This is how we teach the children to form numbers:

