



Year 3 Handwriting Guidance

In Year 3, children continue to develop a fluent, joined handwriting style. At this stage, handwriting should support both **neat presentation** and **writing at greater length**.



Year 3 Handwriting Goals

By the end of Year 3, pupils should be able to:

- Use a **legible, joined script** in most of their writing.
 - Maintain **consistent sizing and spacing** between letters and words.
 - Show good control of **ascenders and descenders** (e.g., *t, l, h, y, g, j*).
 - Write at an appropriate speed without losing legibility.
 - Begin to develop a **personal handwriting style** while keeping it clear.
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Practice Focus

- **Letter Joins**: practising diagonal and horizontal joins between letters.
 - **Consistency**: keeping letters on the line and writing evenly.
 - **Presentation**: writing neatly in different contexts (stories, notes, homework).
 - **Punctuation and Capitals**: ensuring they are clear and stand out.
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Activities to Support Handwriting at Home

- **Short, regular practice** – 5–10 minutes a day is more effective than long sessions.
- **Copy and trace** – write out a sentence for your child to copy underneath.

- **Alphabet warm-ups** – practise tricky letters (e.g., *k, f, z*) in isolation.
 - **Fun challenges** – write shopping lists, letters to relatives, or captions for drawings.
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Helpful Resources

- Handwriting practice books or lined paper with guidelines.
 - Pencil grips (if needed) to support correct pencil hold.
 - Online handwriting sheets and printable practice packs.
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Tips for Parents & Carers

- Make sure your child sits with **good posture** and feet flat on the floor.
 - Encourage a **relaxed tripod grip** (thumb, index, middle finger).
 - Praise effort and improvement — not just perfect handwriting.
 - Remember: **fluency comes with practice**; neatness will improve over time.
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✨ Our aim in Year 3 is to help children write with **confidence, fluency, and pride** in their work.