

Handwriting overview ABPA

The Nelson handwriting scheme provides a clear, practical framework for implementing and developing a whole approach to handwriting. It offers full coverage of the technical aspects of writing (including letter formation, basic joins, printing, speedwriting and slant) and these are taught in purposeful and curriculum-relevant contexts, principally in the areas of phonics, spelling, punctuation and vocabulary.



The Nelson handwriting style and handwriting progression through the scheme are shown below.

The quick brown fox
The quick brown fox
The quick brown fox
The quick brown fox



In EYFS, children are supported from the earliest stages of learning to write. Children are taught letter formation in conjunction with their daily RWI Phonics programme. Children are taught phrases (as set out by RWI) to aid retention and skill when forming each letter. Handwriting is taught daily within RWI sessions. A clear focus on posture, pencil grip, fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination is planned for and provided within these lessons and the wider curriculum. The formation of numbers 0 - 9 are also taught.

In year 1 children will learn to:

- Sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly.
- Form lowercase 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’ (letters that are formed in similar ways).
- Leave spaces between words.

In year 2 children will learn to:

- Form lowercase 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 unjoined.
- Write capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lowercase letters.
- Understand which letters belong to which handwriting ‘families’ (i.e. letters that are formed in similar ways).
- Use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters.

In year 3 and 4 children will learn 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 unjoined.
- Space letters consistently and keep ascenders and descenders in proportion
- **Increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting** (for example, by ensuring that the downstrokes of letters are parallel and equidistant; that lines of writing are spaced sufficiently so that the ascenders and descenders of letters do not touch)
- Develop fluent handwriting skills

In year 5 and 6 children will learn to:

- Develop fluent joined-up writing, written in the appropriate way for different contexts.
- Practise joins and break letters, looking at consistency of sizing and spacing.
- Choose which shape of a letter to use when given choices and deciding whether or not to join specific letters
- Choose the writing implement that is best suited for a task
- Develop their own style of handwriting from a secure base