

Handwriting Overview 2025-26

Year group/ Term	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Rec	1. Dots 2. Straight lines and crosses 3. Circles 4. Waves 5. Loops and bridges 6. Joined straight lines	7. Angled patterns 8. Eights 9. Spirals 10. Left-to-right orientation 11. Mix of patterns 12. Review of patterns	13. Introducing long-legged giraffe letters: l 14. Practising long-legged giraffe letters: l, i 15. Practising long-legged giraffe letters: u, t 16. Practising long-legged giraffe letters: j, y 17. Practising all the long-legged giraffe letters: l, i, t, u, j, y 18. Introducing one-armed robot letters: r	19. Practising one-armed robot letters: b, n 20. Practising one-armed robot letters: h, m 21. Practising one-armed robot letters: k, p 22. Practising all the one-armed robot letters: r, b, n, h, m, k, p 23. Practising all the long-legged giraffe and one-armed robot letters 24. Reviewing all the long-legged giraffe and one-armed robot letters	25. Introducing curly caterpillar letters: c 26. Practising curly caterpillar letters: a, d 27. Practising curly caterpillar letters: o, s 28. Practising curly caterpillar letters: g, q 29. Practising curly caterpillar letters: e, f 30. Practising all the curly caterpillar letters: c, a, d, o, s, g, q, e, f 31. Practising all the curly caterpillar, long-legged giraffe and one-armed robot letters	32. Introducing zig-zag monster letters: z 33. Practising zig-zag monster letters: v, w, x 34. Practising all the zig-zag monster letters: z, v, w, x 35. Practising all the curly caterpillar and zig-zag monster letters 36. Reviewing all the curly caterpillar and zig-zag monster letters
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.	1 Practising long-legged giraffe letters 2 Writing words with ll 3 Introducing capitals for long-legged giraffe letters 4 Practising one-armed robot letters 5 Practising long-legged giraffe letters and one-armed robot letters	6 Introducing capitals for one-armed robot letters 7 Practising curly caterpillar letters 8 Writing words with double ff 9 Writing words with double ss 10 Introducing capitals for curly caterpillar letters	11 Practising long-legged giraffe letters, one-armed robot letters and curly caterpillar letters 12 Practising zig-zag monster letters 13 Writing words with double zz 14 Mixing all the letter families 15 Practising all the capital letters	16 Practising all the numbers 0-9 17 Writing words with ck and qu 18 Practising long vowel phonemes: ai, igh, oo 19 Practising vowels with adjacent consonants: ee, oa, oo 20 End-of-term check	21 Numbers 10-20: spacing 22 Practising ch unjoined 23 Introducing diagonal join to ascender: ch 24 Practising ai unjoined 25 Introducing diagonal join, no ascender: ai	26 Practising wh unjoined 27 Introducing horizontal join to ascender: wh 28 Practising ow unjoined 29 Introducing horizontal join, no ascender: ow 30 Assessment
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	1 Practising diagonal join to ascender: th, ch 2 Practising diagonal join, no ascender: ai, ay 3 Practising diagonal join, no ascender: ir, er 4 Practising horizontal join to ascender: wh, oh	6 Introducing diagonal join to e: ie, ue 7 Introducing horizontal join to e: oe, ve 8 Introducing ee 9 Practising diagonal join, no ascender: le 10 Writing numbers 1-100	11 Introducing diagonal join to anticlockwise letters: ea 12 Practising diagonal join to anticlockwise letters: igh 13 Practising diagonal join to anticlockwise letters: dg, ng	16 letters: wa, wo 17 Introducing mixed joins for three letters: air, ear 18 Practising mixed joins for three letters: oor, our 19 Practising mixed joins for three letters: ing 20 Size and spacing	22 Building on diagonal join to ascender: ck, al, el, at, il, ill 23 Building on diagonal join, no ascender: ui, ey, aw, ur, an, ip 24 Building on horizontal join to ascender: ok, ot, ob, ol	26 Building on diagonal join to anticlockwise letters: ed, cc, eg, ic, ad, ug, dd, ag 27 Building on horizontal join to anticlockwise letters: oc, og, od, va, vo 28 Introducing joins to s: as, es, is, os, ws, ns, ds, ls, ts, ks

adjacent to one another, are best left un-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.	5 Practising horizontal join, no ascender: <i>ow, ou</i>		14 Introducing horizontal join to anticlockwise letters: <i>oo, oa</i> 15 Practising horizontal join to anticlockwise	21 End-of-term check	25 Building on horizontal join, no ascender: <i>oi, oy, on, op, ov</i>	29 Practising joining <i>ed</i> and <i>ing</i> 30 Assessment 31 Capitals
3 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 un-joined ♣ increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting [for example, 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]. Pupils should be using joined handwriting throughout their independent writing	1. Practising joining through a word in stages: no ascenders or descenders 2. Practising joining through a word in stages: parallel ascenders 3. Introducing joining from s to ascender: <i>sh, sl, st, sk</i> 4. Introducing joining from s, no ascender: <i>sw, si, se, sm, sn, sp, su</i> 5. Introducing joining from s to an anticlockwise letter: <i>sa, sc, sd, sg, so, sq</i>	6. Introducing joining from r to an ascender: <i>rb, rh, rk, rl, rt</i> 7. Introducing joining from r, no ascender: <i>ri, ru, rn, rp</i> 8. Introducing joining from r to an anticlockwise letter: <i>ra, rd, rg, ro</i> 9. Introducing joining from r to e: <i>are, ere, ure, ore, ire</i> 10. Introducing break letters: <i>g, j, y, f, b, p, x, z</i>	10 Introducing joining to f: <i>if, ef, af, of</i> 11 Introducing joining from f to an ascender: <i>fl, ft</i> 12 Introducing joining from f, no ascender: <i>fe, fi, fu, fr, fy</i> 13 Introducing joining from f to an anticlockwise letter: <i>fo, fa</i>	14 Introducing <i>ff</i> 15 Introducing <i>rr</i> 16 Introducing <i>ss</i> 17 Introducing <i>qu</i> 18 Revising parallel ascenders and descenders 19 End-of-term check	20 Revising joins: letter spacing 21 Revising joins: spacing between words 22 Revising joins: consistency of size 23 Revising joins: fluency 24 Revising joins: parallel ascenders	26 Revising joins: parallel ascenders and descenders 27 Revising horizontal join from r to an anticlockwise letter: <i>rs</i> 28 Revising break letters 29 Assessment 30 Revising capital letters
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 unjoined ♣ increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting [for example, by ensuring that the down strokes of letters are parallel and equidistant; that lines of writing are spaced	1. Introducing diagonal join from p and b to ascender: <i>ph, pl, bl</i> 2. Introducing diagonal join from p and b, no ascender: <i>bu, bi, be, pu, pi, pe</i> 3. Introducing diagonal join from p and b to an anticlockwise letter: <i>pa, po, ps, ba, bo, bs</i> 4. Revising parallel ascenders and descenders: <i>bb, pp</i> 5. Break letters: <i>x, z</i>	6. Spacing in common exception words 7. Consistent size of letters 8. Relative size of capitals 9. Speed and fluency 10. End-of-term check	11. Revising parallel ascenders 12. Revising parallel ascenders and break letters 13. Relative sizes of letters 14. Proportion of letters 15. Spacing between letters	16. Spacing between words 17. Writing at speed 18. Improving fluency 19. Speed and fluency 20. End-of-term check	21. Consistency of size 22. Proportion 23. Spacing between letters and words 24. Size, proportion and spacing 25. Fluency: writing longer words	26. Speed and fluency 27. Revising break letters 28. Print alphabet: presentation 29. Assessment 30. Capital letters: presentation

sufficiently so that the ascenders and descenders of letters do not touch]. Pupils should be using joined handwriting throughout their independent writing.						
<p>5</p> <p>Pupils should be taught to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ write legibly, fluently and with increasing speed by: ♣ choosing which shape of a letter to use when given choices and deciding whether or not to join specific letters ♣ Choosing the writing implement that is best suited for a task. 	<p>1 Introducing sloped writing in letter families</p> <p>2 Practising sloped writing: diagonal join to ascender: th, sh, nb, nd, ht, st</p> <p>3 Practising sloped writing: diagonal join, no ascender: ai, ay, kn, er, ie, en</p> <p>4 Practising sloped writing: diagonal join to an anticlockwise letter: ac, sc, bo, da, ea, ho</p> <p>5 Practising sloped writing: horizontal join to ascender: wh, wl, oh, ol, of, ob</p>	<p>6 Practising sloped writing: horizontal join, no ascender: oi, oy, ou, op, ve</p> <p>7 Practising sloped writing: horizontal join to an anticlockwise letter: oo, oa, wa, wo, va, vo</p> <p>8 Practising sloped writing: joining from r: ra, re, ri, ro, ru,</p> <p>9 Practising sloped writing: joining from s: sh, su, sc, sl, sw, sp</p> <p>10 End-of-term check</p>	<p>11 Practising sloped writing: proportion - joining from f to ascender: fl, ft</p> <p>12 Practising sloped writing: size - joining from f, no ascender: fa, fe, fi, fo, fu</p> <p>13 Different styles for different purposes: writing a paragraph</p> <p>14 Practising sloped writing: speed: ff</p> <p>15 Practising sloped writing: speed and legibility: rr</p>	<p>16 Practising sloped writing: size, proportion and spacing: ss</p> <p>17 Practising sloped writing: building speed: qu</p> <p>18 Different styles for different purposes: decorative alphabets</p> <p>19 Different styles for different purposes</p> <p>20 End-of-term check</p>	<p>21 Sloped writing: proportion, joining p and b to ascenders: ph, pl, bl</p> <p>22 Handwriting for different purposes: joining from p and b, no ascender: bu, bi, pe, pu, pi, pr</p> <p>23 Practising sloped writing: parallel downstrokes: pp, bb</p> <p>24 Practising sloped writing: all double letters</p> <p>25 Practising sloped writing for speed: tial, cial,</p>	<p>26 Practising sloped writing for fluency</p> <p>27 Personal style</p> <p>28 Handwriting for different purposes: print alphabet</p> <p>29 Assessment</p> <p>30 Capitals</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Pupils should be taught to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♣ write legibly, fluently and with increasing speed by: ♣ choosing which shape of a letter to use when given choices and deciding whether or not to join specific letters ♣ Choosing the writing implement that is best suited for a task. 	<p>1 Style for speed: crossbar join from t: th, ti, tr, ta, tt</p> <p>2 Style for speed: looping from g: gl, gi, gr, ga, gg</p> <p>3 Style for speed: looping from j and y: je, jo, ye, yr, yo</p> <p>4</p> <p>5 Style for speed: looping from f</p> <p>6 Style for speed: different joins to s</p>	<p>7 Style for speed: looping from b</p> <p>8 Style for speed: joining from v, w, x and z</p> <p>9 Handwriting for different purposes: abbreviations</p> <p>10 Spacing between words</p> <p>11 End-of-term check</p>	<p>12 Improving handwriting: the importance of consistent sizing</p> <p>13 Improving handwriting: the importance of proportion</p> <p>14 Improving handwriting: the importance of spacing</p> <p>15 Improving handwriting: the importance of consistent sizing of parallel ascenders and descenders</p> <p>16 Improving handwriting: the importance of closed and open letter</p>	<p>17 Improving handwriting: pen breaks in longer words</p> <p>18 Handwriting for different purposes: annotations</p> <p>19 Handwriting for different purposes</p> <p>20 Choice of handwriting tools</p> <p>21 End-of-term check</p>	<p>1 Handwriting for different purposes: fast-joined and print letters</p> <p>2 Handwriting for different purposes: note making</p> <p>3 Handwriting for different purposes: neat writing</p> <p>4 Handwriting for different purposes: print letters for personal details</p> <p>5 Different styles of writing</p>	<p>6 Handwriting for different purposes: presentation</p> <p>Handwriting for different purposes: decorated capitals</p> <p>7 Handwriting for different purposes: layout</p> <p>8 Assessment</p> <p>9 Handwriting for different purposes: handwriting patterns</p>