

Progression in Handwriting

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Key Learning	• Sit correctly at a table and hold pencil correctly. • Hold a pencil with an effective grip. • Form lower-case letters correctly – starting and finishing in the right place, going the right way round, correctly oriented. • Form digits 0-9 correctly. • Practise forming letters in handwriting families: - ‘Long ladders’ – i, j, l, t, u, - ‘One armed robots’ – b, h, m, n p, r - ‘Curly caterpillars’ – c, a, d, e, g, o, q, f, s - ‘Zig-zag letters’ – k, v, w, x, y, z • Have clear ascenders (‘tall letters’) and descenders (‘tails’). • Form capital letters correctly.	• Form lower-case letters of the correct size relative to one another. • Write capital letters and digits of the correct size relative to one another and to lower case letters. • Use spacing between words which reflects the size of the letters. • 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. • Use capital letters appropriately, e.g. <i>not always writing A as a capital; not using capitals within words.</i> • Orientate capital letters correctly.	• Write legibly. • Form and use the four basic handwriting joins.	• Write with consistency in size and proportion of letters, e.g. <i>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.</i> • Use a joined style throughout their independent writing.	• Choose when it is appropriate to print (lower case or upper case) rather than to join writing, e.g. <i>printing for labelling a scientific diagram or data; filling in a form, writing an e mail address.</i> • Write fluently using a joined style as appropriate for independent writing.	• Choose the writing implement that is best suited for a task, e.g. <i>pencil for quick notes, handwriting pen for letters, marker pens for posters.</i> • Write, using a joined style, with increasing speed.