

Introduction

At Dovedale, we believe that handwriting is a developmental process with its own distinctive stages of progression, from early letter formation through to fluent, joined writing. Being taught correct letter formation in the appropriate letter families during the early years ensures that pupils develop a confident and lasting handwriting habit. It is essential that correct letter formation, direction, and spacing are embedded before the introduction of joined-up handwriting.

Handwriting should become an automatic process that enables pupils to focus on the content of their writing. To achieve this, all adults must model the correct formation and style at all times when teaching, marking, or creating displays.

Handwriting Scheme Overview:

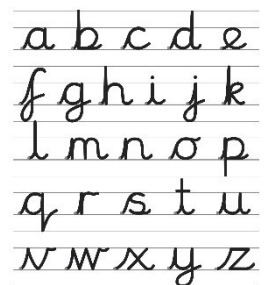
From **EYFS through to Year 2**, pupils will be taught handwriting using the **Read Write Inc Letter Family scheme**. This scheme provides a consistent, structured approach to letter formation, supporting children to develop fluency and confidence in writing. The scheme will be implemented progressively each year as children move through the school, ensuring consistency and continuity in handwriting development.

During this transition period, **Key Stage 2 (KS2)** will continue to follow the **Letterjoin** scheme. KS2 teachers will use Letterjoin resources for:

- The teaching of spelling
- Curriculum worksheets and classroom materials
- Exercise books and handwriting notebooks
- Displays and classroom models where appropriate

This approach ensures continuity in handwriting expectations across the school while allowing for a smooth transition to the Read Write Inc Letter Family scheme in the lower years.

Cursive Lower Case Letters



Provision

Handwriting will be taught as a discrete skill and reinforced across all curriculum areas. In EYFS and KS1, explicit teaching of letter families will be embedded into daily phonics and writing lessons through the Read Write Inc approach. In KS2, Letterjoin lessons will continue to reinforce fluency, consistency, and legibility, linked closely to spelling and vocabulary development.

Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1

Pupils in EYFS, Year 1, and Year 2 will be taught using the **Read Write Inc Letter Family scheme**. The focus will be on developing fine and gross motor control, correct pencil grip,

and accurate letter formation. Children will be taught letters in their correct families, ensuring they understand movement patterns and letter relationships.

Key skills include:

- Correct posture and pencil grip
- Consistent size, spacing, and direction
- Understanding of letter families
- Use of Read Write Inc visuals and mnemonics

Key Stage 2

KS2 pupils will continue to follow the **Letterjoin** scheme. Teaching will build on previously established handwriting habits, ensuring legibility, fluency, and speed. Children will:

- Refine joins and maintain consistency in spacing and proportion
- Develop personal fluency while retaining neatness
- Use joined handwriting in most written work
- Apply neat presentation in final drafts and display work

All KS2 materials, including spelling resources, curriculum worksheets, and classroom displays, will continue to use **Letterjoin** during the transition period.

Inclusion and Support

Handwriting will be monitored as part of writing assessments. Interventions such as slanted writing boards, pencil grips, and fine/gross motor skill exercises will support pupils who experience difficulty. Intervention will be provided for children by the year group LSA, when teachers have identified a need, and this will be in conjunction with whole class teaching of handwriting.

Assessment and Monitoring

Assessment of handwriting will be ongoing throughout all key stages. Teachers will provide regular feedback. Subject leaders will monitor handwriting as part of the school's writing cycle, ensuring consistency across phases.

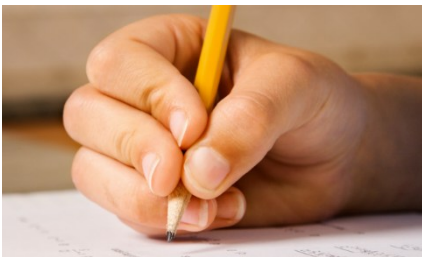
Foundation Stage

To enable children to acquire a legible, fluent and fast handwriting style, they need to develop good gross and fine motor control skills and recognition of letter shapes and patterns from an early stage.

Children will take part in a multi-sensory approach through activities to develop their fine and gross motor-skills and to recognise patterns. This will help prepare children for handwriting, consolidate their motor control and introduce letter shapes. Exploring letter shapes and letter formation using their index finger in sand; sky writing with both hands; making patterns on each other's backs and using large equipment to make marks e.g. big chalks, Jumbo pencils and crayons, large paint brushes and finger paints will help pupils feel the movement in the hand. They will be given a range of materials to practise handwriting opportunities and to develop their handwriting to their full potential at that age.

Children should begin to learn how to correctly hold a pencil, then how to use a pencil to form recognisable letters. To aid movement, close attention will be given to pencil grip; correct posture and sitting position; the positioning of the paper and the organisation of the writing space.

A wide range of activities will help to develop hand and finger strength which leads on to developing a good pencil grip. Children will be taught to hold the pencil between the thumb and forefinger with the pencil resting on the third finger – the dynamic tripod grip.



At this stage the correct formation of letters is important. To encourage the correct letter formation, children will be taught letter formation in the correct families as per the

requirements of the current English National Curriculum. We will be using the **Letter Join** scheme, which shows the correct starting point and the correct letter direction. Children will focus on the correct letter movement rather than neatness at this early stage. Children will receive instant feedback when errors in pencil grip, sitting position, or letter formation are seen.

The letter formation families are:

- 'Around' letters: c a o d g q
- 'Down' letters: l t b p k h i j m n r u y
- 'Curly' letters: e f s
- 'Zig-zag' letters: v w z x.

Children will be encouraged to write from the left-hand edge of the page, or margin.