

*Handwriting Progression*  
*at Rossmere Primary School*

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## Rossmere Primary School. Handwriting Progression.

We use the **National Curriculum 2014**: programmes of study and the notes and guidance to help us to plan our handwriting lessons.

As a school, we use **Nelson Handwriting**, alongside the NC, as a base for our handwriting progression.

### Aims of teaching handwriting:

- **Pupils who do not learn to read and write fluently and confidently are, in every sense, disenfranchised ('Purpose of Study' p13)**
- **Pupils should develop the stamina and skills to write at length, with accurate spelling and punctuation. (6.3 Language and Literacy - Reading and Writing)**
- **Writing also depends on fluent, legible and, eventually, speedy handwriting. (Programmes of study and attainment targets - Aims of English p15)**

### Early Years Outcomes and National Curriculum Progression:

By the end of **Nursery** the majority of children will:

- Hold a pencil between thumb and two fingers, no longer using whole-hand grasp.
- Hold a pencil near the point between first two fingers and thumb and uses it with good control.
- Can copy some letters: e.g.: letters from their name.
- Most letters are formed in air/paint/with a brush: as stated in **Letters and Sounds**.

By the end of **Reception** the majority of children will:

- ✓ Shows a preference for a dominant hand.
- ✓ Begins to use anti-clockwise movement and retrace vertical lines.
- ✓ Begins to form recognisable letters: l,t,i, m.n.h, sufficiently well as stated in **Letters and Sounds**.
- ✓ Uses a pencil and holds it effectively to form recognisable letters most of which are formed correctly.
- ✓ Write each letter correctly when following a model.

By the end of **Year 1** the majority of children will:

Pupils' writing during year 1 will generally develop at a slower pace than their reading. This is because they need to encode the sounds they hear in words (spelling skills), develop the physical skill needed for handwriting, and learn how to organise their ideas in writing.

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.
- Handwriting requires frequent and discrete, direct teaching. Pupils should be able to form letters correctly and confidently. The size of the writing implement (pencil, pen) should not be too large for a young pupil's hand. Whatever is being used should allow the pupil to hold it easily and correctly so that bad habits are avoided.
- Left-handed pupils should receive specific teaching to meet their needs.

### PROGRESSION THROUGH NELSON SCHEME:

Our **Year 1** pupils will be taught the following objectives: (**Nelson Book 1**, pages 4 to 11).

Over the course of Year 1:	Year 1 Summer Term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter formation. Groups of letters.</li> <li>• Formation of capital letters.</li> <li>• Formation of numerals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first join: Joining any letter in Set 1 to any letter in Set 2. (Set 1: a,c,d,e,h,i,k,l,m,n,s,t,u) (Set 2: a,c,d,e,g,l,j,m,n,o,p,q,r,s,u,v,w,x,y)</li> <li>• Practising the first join: nd, ng, mp</li> <li>• Practising the first join: joining to e.</li> <li>• Practising the first join: joining to s.</li> </ul> <p>(<b>Nelson Book 1</b>, pages 4 to 11).</p>

By the end of **Year 2** the majority of children will:

In writing, pupils **at the beginning of Year 2**, should be able to form individual letters correctly, so establishing good handwriting habits from the beginning.

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 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 lower case letters
- ✓ use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters.
- ✓ Pupils should revise and practise correct letter formation frequently. **They should be taught to write with a joined style as soon as they can form letters securely with the correct orientation.**

**PROGRESSION THROUGH NELSON SCHEME:**

Our **Year 2** pupils will be taught the following objectives: (**Nelson Book 1**, pages 12 to 27. **Nelson Book 2**, pages 2 to 27).

Autumn 1 Year 2	Autumn 2 Year 2	Spring 1 Year 2	Spring 2 Year 2	Summer 1 Year 2	Summer 2 Year 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Practising the second and third join.</li> </ul> <p><b>(Nelson Book 1 pages 12 to 19)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Practising the third and fourth join.</li> </ul> <p><b>(Nelson Book 1 pages 20 to 25 )</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Practise with tricky letters: ss and ff.</li> <li>Understand the "break letters".</li> <li>Lots of practise activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revision of unjoined script and the joins.</li> </ul> <p><b>(Nelson Book 2 pages 2 and 3).</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revision of e,s and f.</li> <li>Lots of practise activities.</li> <li>Joining consonants ff, ll, ss.</li> <li>Lots of practise with all the joins.</li> </ul> <p><b>(Book 2 pages 4 -24).</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Writing with a slope.</li> </ul> <p><b>(Nelson Book 2 pages 24 to 27).</b></p>

By the end of **Years 3 and 4** the majority of children will:

Joined handwriting should be the norm; pupils should be able to use it fast enough to keep pace with what they want to say.

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, e.g. 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
- ✓ Pupils should be using joined handwriting throughout their independent writing. Handwriting should continue to be taught, with the aim of increasing the fluency with which pupils are able to write down what they want to say. This, in turn, will support their composition and spelling.

**PROGRESSION THROUGH NELSON SCHEME:**

Our **Year 3** pupils will be taught the following objectives: **(Nelson Book 2)** Our Year 3 pupils will be introduced to **pen**.

Autumn 1 Year 3: <b>PEN</b>	Autumn 2 Year 3: <b>PEN</b>	Spring 1 Year 3: <b>PEN</b>	Spring 2 Year 3: <b>PEN</b>	Summer 1 Year 3: <b>PEN</b>	Summer 2 Year 3: <b>PEN</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 3 needs to begin with a revision of Year 2, however the children need to use <b>pen</b>.</li> <li>First activities: Autumn 1: <b>Nelson Book 2 pages 42, 43, 44 and 45</b>. These activities are to practise using a pen.</li> <li>Revision of the unjoined script and the joins <b>(Nelson Book 2 pages 2 and 3)</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revision of e,s and f.</li> <li>Lots of practise activities.</li> <li>Joining consonants ff, ll, ss.</li> <li>Lots of practise with all the joins.</li> </ul> <b>(Nelson Book 2 pages 4 - 24).</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revision of writing with a slope.</li> </ul> <b>(Nelson Book 2 pages 24 to 27).</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vocabulary Practice: synonyms and antonyms.</li> <li>Dictionary Skills: alphabetical order and definitions.</li> </ul> <b>(Nelson Book 2 pages 28 to 31).</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speed Writing</li> <li>Drafting and editing</li> </ul> <b>(Nelson Book 2 pages 32 to 35)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Print for forms, labels, diagrams etc.</li> <li>Revision of using a pen to write.</li> </ul> <b>(Nelson Book 2 pages 38 to 45)</b>

**PROGRESSION THROUGH NELSON SCHEME:**

Our **Year 4** pupils will be taught the following objectives: **(Nelson Book 3)**

Our Year 4 pupils will be using **pen**.

Autumn 1 Year 4 <b>PEN</b>	Autumn 2 Year 4 <b>PEN</b>	Spring 1 Year 4 <b>PEN</b>	Spring 2 Year 4 <b>PEN</b>	Summer 1 Year 4 <b>PEN</b>	Summer 2 Year 4 <b>PEN</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revision of the unjoined script.</li> <li>Revision of the joins.</li> </ul> <b>(Nelson Book 3 pages 2 and 3, however use Pupil Book 2 for ideas for revision of the joins).</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revision of sloped writing.</li> </ul> <b>(Nelson Book 2 pages 24 to 27 and Nelson Book 3 pages 4 to 7).</b>	Practice activities using <b>Pupil Book 3</b> in pen.	Practice activities using <b>Pupil Book 3</b> in pen.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speed Writing</li> </ul> <b>(Nelson Book 3 pages 24 to 27 and 32 to 33).</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revision of print for notices, posters, forms and labelling diagrams.</li> </ul> <b>(Nelson Book 3 pages 34 to 37).</b>

By the end of **Years 5 and 6** the majority of children will:

Joined handwriting should be the norm; pupils should be able to use it fast enough to keep pace with what they want to say.

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, e.g. 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
- ✓ Pupils should be using joined handwriting throughout their independent writing. Handwriting should continue to be taught, with the aim of increasing the fluency with which pupils are able to write down what they want to say. This, in turn, will support their composition and spelling.

### **PROGRESSION THROUGH NELSON SCHEME:**

In Upper Key Stage 2, the children will be consolidating what they have been taught in the past key stages.

**Nelson Pupil Book 4** will be used as a guide.

In the Autumn term the Year 5 and 6 pupils will revise the unjoined script and the joins.

The pupils will then consolidate, ensuring they are taught the following:

- Presenting a project.
- Practice with print.
- Penmanship.
- Developing an individual style.
- Overall presentation of a piece of work.