

Juniper Hill School




Handwriting Progression of Skills








Kindness Enjoyment Achievement

Statutory Requirements





EYFS – Early Learning Goals

-  Hold a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing – using the tripod grip in almost all cases.
-  Begin to show accuracy and care when drawing.
-  Write recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed.



Year 1

-  Sit correctly at a table
-  Hold a pencil correctly and comfortably
-  Form lower-case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the correct place. Form capital letters
-  Forms digits 0-9
-  Understand handwriting “families” (formed in a similar way)




Year 2

-  Form lower-case letters of the correct size relative to one another
-  Start using diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters
-  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 reflect the size of the letters.

LKS2 (3,4)





















-  Use diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters.
-  Increase legibility, consistency and quality of handwriting (parallel downstrokes, sufficient spacing...)

UKS2 (5,6)












-  Write legibly, fluently and with increasing speed
-  Choosing which shape of a letter to use when given a choice, and deciding whether or not to join specific letters.
-  Choosing the writing implement that is best suited for the task.

Progression of Handwriting Skills












Skills taught in EYFS

-  Developing good gross motor control through developing core strength, shoulder and elbow pivots.
-  Using whole arm movements to develop the above.
-  Developing bilateral coordination and hand eye coordination.
-  Developing good fine motor control through developing pincer grasp, palm arches strength, in-hand manipulation, thumb opposition, finger isolation, and knuckle, PIP and DIP joints/pivots.
-  Developing a good tripod pencil grip. (Moving from a palmer supinate grip to a static tripod grip first if appropriate)
-  Using only the hand and fingers to control a pencil to write.
-  Has a hand dominance
-  Drawing horizontal, vertical and diagonal lines
-  Drawing anti-clockwise circles.
-  Drawing patterns including waves, zigzags and spirals
-  Using rhymes to support the correct formation of lower-case letters.
-  Know that all letters start at the top.
-  Learn to write letters in print with an exit stroke
-  Introduce letter families when focusing on letter formation.
-  Long ladder family: b,h,k,m,n,p,r; numbers 2,3,5
-  Curly Caterpillar family: c,a,d,e,g,o,q,f,s; numbers 0,6,8,9
-  Zigzag family: v,w,x,z; numbers 1,4,7
-  Paper position angled depending on the hand the child writes with.
-  Sit in the correct position and hold a pencil correctly to allow fluid movement of the nib. (see seating picture.
-  Can write own name











Year 1

-  Revisit the letter families taught in EYFS
-  Continue to develop good gross and fine motor control and maintain core strength
-  Maintain angled paper position
-  Sit correctly (see seating picture)
-  Understand that letters are written on a base line.
-  Correct and confident letter movement acquired including the exit stroke for each letter before joining is introduced in Year 2 (children can form each letter with their eyes closed in the air or on paper.
-  Form lower case and capital letters correctly, and use where appropriate.
-  For numerals 0 – 9 that are consistent in line and sit on the base line.
-  Ensure that letters sit on the base line and are consistent in size with ascenders and descenders that are the correct length and formation.
-  Leave a suitable amount of space between words.
-  Write sentences.

Year 2

-  Continue to develop good gross and fine motor control
-  Maintain core strength.
-  Maintain angled paper position.
-  Consolidate the letter families taught in previous years.
-  Joins are introduced (joining two letters together using vertical and horizontal joins)
-  Horizontal and vertical joins taught and embedded.
-  Form lower-case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place.
-  Form lower-case letters of the correct size relative to one another in some of their writing.
-  Correct spacing between words
-  All words sit on the line
-  Improve the speed of writing and begin to write automatically - promoting creativity in independent writing.

Year 3,4,5,6

-  Maintain angled paper position
-  Increase fluency, legibility and speed
-  More able to deal with cognitive / creative aspect of writing
-  Letters are consistently sized with equal word spacing.
-  Ascenders and descenders are parallel and do not touch words on the line above or below.
-  Speedy handwriting allows for creative writing to take precedence over the task of handwriting
-  Strength and mobility to be able to write for longer periods of time without fatigue.
-  Have knowledge and ability of the different forms of handwriting for different purposes:
 - ** Neat, joined cursive letters for writing passages and large amounts of texts, lists and letters.
 - ** Printed or capital letters for posters, notices, headings, labelling and form filling.
-  Speedy handwriting for note taking and dictation where neatness is not as important and shortcuts such as + instead of “and” can be used.
-  Maintain legibility in joined handwriting when writing at speed.