

Juniper Hill School

# Handwriting Policy (KS1)



*Kindness Enjoyment Achievement*

This policy was written in October 2025  
Review Date October 2028

## **Intent**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure consistent teaching and development of legible, fluent joined handwriting in KS1. This ensures that there is a consistent understanding of policy and procedure among the whole school community: pupils, teachers, support staff, parents and governors.

## **Introduction**







Our school vision is to empower our community to have the courage to make a difference in the world, teaching children to work together to enable everyone to achieve their goals.

**Kindness** - we encourage children to be kind to each other; developing collaborative skills and nurturing positive attitudes to team work.

**Enjoyment** - enjoyment is at the core of learning and using a hook for each handwriting lesson provides children with an interest to develop as a writer.

**Achievement** – we want everyone to achieve all they can, by engaging our children with quality teaching and learning opportunities.

## **Our Aims**

-  To help our children develop a fluent, legible handwriting style.
-  To help our children enjoy writing and recognise its value.
-  To enable our children to write with accuracy.
-  To enable our children to develop writing stamina.
-  To enable our children to become confident and enthusiastic writers.
-  To ensure better presentation skills at increased speed.

**Implementation:** we teach handwriting in four stages:

**First stage** in Reception: teach children to form letters correctly using mnemonics.

**Second stage** begins in Year 1: learn the relative size of letters, and to form letters that flow easily into a joined-up style using picture hooks.

**Third stage:** learn how to join letters using two basic joins.

**Fourth stage:** helps children develop a mature and speedy style.

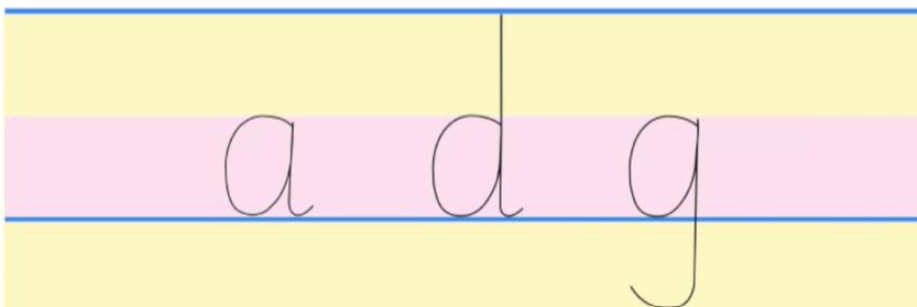
Each 10-minute lesson follows the exact same structure. These steps are taught through the use of videos and teacher modelling.

### **What happens in each lesson:**

1. Introduce the letter with a story and rap.
2. Show children how to write the letter.
3. Children practise writing the letter.
4. Children check their letters, with their partner.  
Repeat steps 2, 3 and 4.
5. Children write previous letters and words containing previously taught letters.

The children are taught the lesson through layers in a sponge cake. This enables them to visualise letters that are ascenders (also known to the children as tall letters) and descenders.

The sponge layer cake is illustrated as below:



### **Equal opportunities, inclusion and SEND**

At Juniper, we teach handwriting to all children, whatever their ability. Through our handwriting teaching, we provide learning opportunities that enable all children to progress. We do this by setting suitable learning challenges and responding to each child's different needs. Assessment allows us to consider each child's attainment and progress against expected levels.

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policy:

- 📖 Handwriting policy.