Hodnet Primary School

Handwriting using Letter Join



Letter-join

At Hodnet School, we understand the importance of handwriting that allows pupils to write in fluent manner. We are working hard to improve our pupils' handwriting and we take particular care with our handwriting style.

In line with the Writing Framework 2025, handwriting is taught explicitly and regularly across the school beginning in Reception, in addition to writing in phonics lessons. We use Letter-join's whole school handwriting scheme as the basis of our handwriting policy, which enables us to meet National Curriculum requirements through a structured teaching programme.

Objective

Handwriting is a core skill which influences the quality of work throughout the curriculum. By the end of Key Stage 2 pupils should have the ability to produce fluent, legible and speedy joined handwriting, and to understand that different styles of handwriting are used for different purposes.

Our intention is to make handwriting an automatic process that does not interfere with creative and mental thinking.

Aims

- Develop neat, legible and speedy handwriting where letters and words are automatically produced in independent writing.
- Establish and maintain high expectations for the presentation of written work.
- Understand, by the end of Year 6, the importance of neat presentation and the need for different handwriting styles (joined, printed or capital letters) to help communicate meaning clearly.



Expectations

All teaching staff are encouraged to model the style of handwriting chosen for each year group in our school in all their handwriting, whether on whiteboards, displays or in pupils' books.

Consistency throughout the school

Pupils should experience coherence and continuity in the teaching and learning of handwriting across all school years and be encouraged to take pride in their work. We want to help pupils enjoy learning and developing their handwriting, so they feel a sense of achievement and pride.

Handwriting frequency

Handwriting is a cross-curricular task and will be taken into consideration during all lessons. Formal teaching of handwriting will be carried out regularly and systematically to ensure key stage targets are met throughout learning, as emphasised in the 2025 Writing Framework.

Inclusion



For children who experience handwriting difficulties due to fine motor development, including those who are left-handed and/or with special educational needs, appropriate additional support will be put in place. Letter-join's Lesson Planners include differentiation activities for extra practice/challenge and their Handwriting Recovery Programme is used as an intervention for our key stage 2 pupils to give structured support if they find handwriting challenging.

Key Stage Teaching

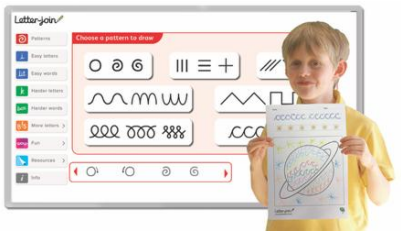
Early Years



We teach short, daily handwriting lessons, which may include:

- warm-up activities to get ready for handwriting
- air writing, pattern making and physical activities to develop gross motor skills
- correct sitting position and pencil grip for writing
- mark making on paper, whiteboards, sensory trays and tablets, etc. to develop and refine fine motor skills
- the introduction of letter shapes, their sounds, formation and vocabulary.

Module 1 Lesson Planner



Module 1 Print teaches handwriting using a printed font style.

This module is divided into three sections covering:

- pre-writing patterns
- easy letters and words
- harder letters and words.

At the end of this module children should be able to recognise and form all lowercase letters of the alphabet in a printed style.

Key Stage 1: Years 1 and 2



Teaching continues in five short lessons:

- continuing with gross and fine motor skills activities
- practise to strengthening handwriting learning
- learning where and when to use capitals and printed letters, reinforced by practice
- practising handwriting with spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG).

Module 2 Lesson Planner: Year 1



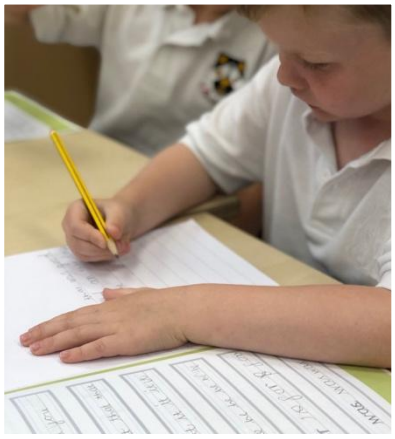
Module 2 Print to Cursive teaches how to correctly use and write capital letters, printed letters, numbers, punctuation, maths symbols and other symbols. Children are then introduced to pre-writing patterns and cursive letters in preparation for Module 3 when they are required to start joining their handwriting.

This module is divided into three sections covering:

- warm-up activities, letter families and capital letters
- the uses of printed letters
- numbers and symbols
- the introduction of pre-cursive patterns and cursive letters.

On completion of this module, children should be confident in writing all capital and printed letters, numbers and symbols and have some familiarity with the orientation of cursive letters.

Module 3 Lesson Planner: Year 2



Module 3 Starting Cursive introduces children to cursive letters and how to join them which is reinforced with regular practice in letter formation and joining.

The sections in this module cover:

- cursive letters and words
- revisiting letter families
- high frequency words
- joining techniques
- sequencing sentences
- dictation exercises
- times table facts
- spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) practice.

With regular handwriting practice throughout this module, children should now be developing fluency and speed in their writing.

Lower Key Stage 2: Years 3 and 4

Handwriting lessons will continue three times a week in Lower Key Stage 2.

Module 4 Lesson Planner: Year 3



Module 4 teaches pupils to use a joined style throughout their independent writing in all subjects, helping them to refine their handwriting based on the requirements of each lesson. This module covers topics such as dictation, double letters, number vocabulary, palindromes, tongue twisters, modern foreign languages (French and Spanish), onomatopoeia, simile and statutory spellings.



Through a variety of resources which link handwriting to other areas of the curriculum, on completion of this module, the legibility, consistency and quality of handwriting should be improving.

Module 5 Lesson Planner: Year 4



Module 5 focuses on handwriting practice which supports other subjects in the curriculum and, at the same time, builds on fluency and consistency. This module aims to promote meaningful links with other subjects such as English, maths, science, geography, French and Spanish. Making such links enables children to apply the skills they are learning in context and, also provides depth to the curriculum.

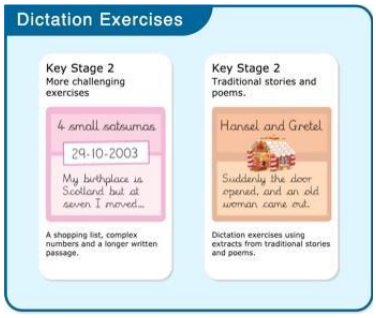
Learners will continue to build on producing fluent, consistent and legible handwriting through the regular practice offered in this module's lessons.

On concluding this module, children will have practised applying size-appropriate handwriting to all areas of the curriculum whilst maintaining fluency and legibility.

Upper Key Stage 2: Years 5 and 6

More advanced handwriting techniques will be taught during two weekly lessons:

- reinforcing joined handwriting across the curriculum
- form-filling/labelling using printed and capital letters
- dictation exercises promoting quick note-taking and speedy handwriting writing skills
- SATs spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) practice.



Module 6 Lesson Planner: Year 5

Module 6 continues to build on combining fluent handwriting with other subjects across the curriculum.

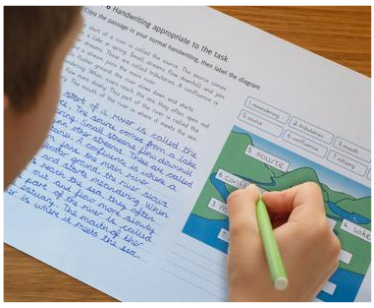


In this module, learners will have plenty of opportunity to develop the skills and stamina needed to write at length, with accurate spelling and punctuation. With Letter-join's wide range of resources they will be able to work towards producing consistently neat and well-presented handwriting in all curriculum subjects.

On completing this module, children should be producing joined writing automatically, enabling them to focus on the content of their work rather than the process of writing.

Module 7 Lesson Planner: Year 6

Module 7 presents learners with a range of tasks where they need to decide on an appropriate style of handwriting. Promoting speedy, fluent writing continues to be a strong feature. Challenging dictation exercises help refine pupils' revising and checking skills as well as boosting their handwriting speed, stamina and fluency. A range of curriculum-based worksheets offer opportunities to practise writing at length.



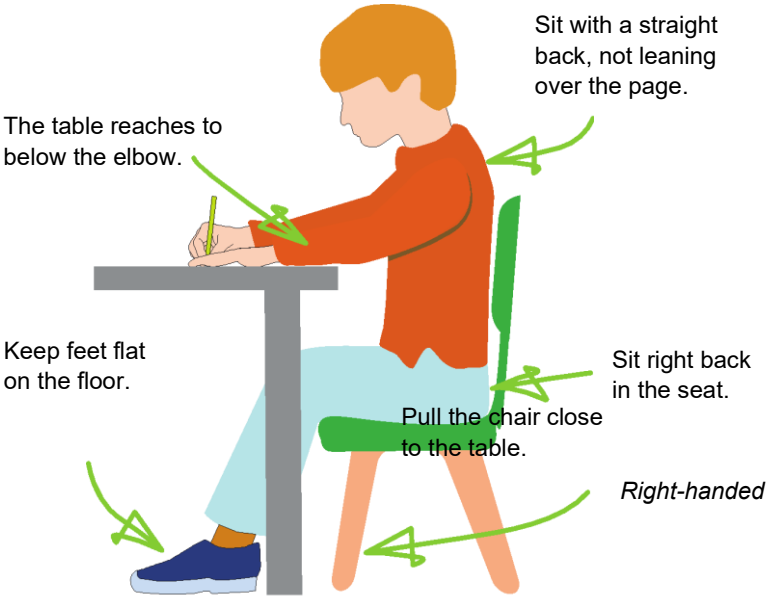
Module 7 also contains a series of worksheets to support SATs SPaG revision. They are designed to support pupils in meeting expected standards for spelling, punctuation and grammar, with lots of SPaG preparation and plenty of handwriting practice.

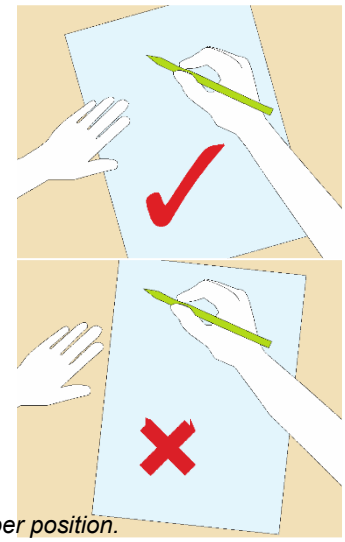
By the end of this module, children should be able to adapt their handwriting for a range of tasks and purposes and to create different effects and styles. They should be clear about what standard of handwriting is appropriate for a particular task, for example, quick notes, a final handwritten version, capital letters or an unjoined style.

Correct posture, pencil grip and paper position for handwriting

Pupils are taught to sit correctly at a table and hold a pencil comfortably and correctly.

Sitting position



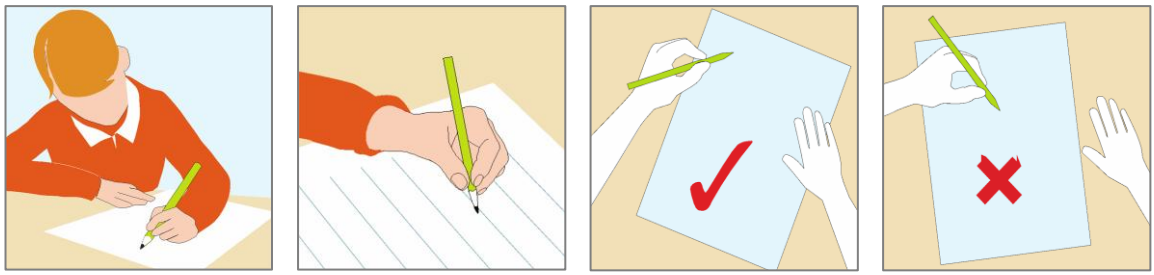


Right-handed paper position.

Left-handed writer

Left-handed children may find it difficult to follow the movements of right-handed teachers as they model letter formation (and vice versa). Teachers will demonstrate to left-handers on an individual or group basis.

- Left-handed pupils should sit to the left of a right-handed child so that they are not competing for space.
- Pupils should position the paper/book to their left side and slanted, as shown.
- Pencils should not be held too close to the point as this can interrupt pupils' line of vision.
- Extra practice with left-to-right exercises may be necessary before pupils write left-to-right automatically.



Left-handed paper position.

The Tripod Pencil Grip

Both right and left-handed children should use the tripod grip which enables the pen/pencil to be held securely whilst allowing controlled movements of the pen/pencil nib.

We use the Tripod Grip rhyme:

Right-handed pencil grip



Point away the pencil, Pinch it near the tip, Lift if off the table, Spin it round... and grip.

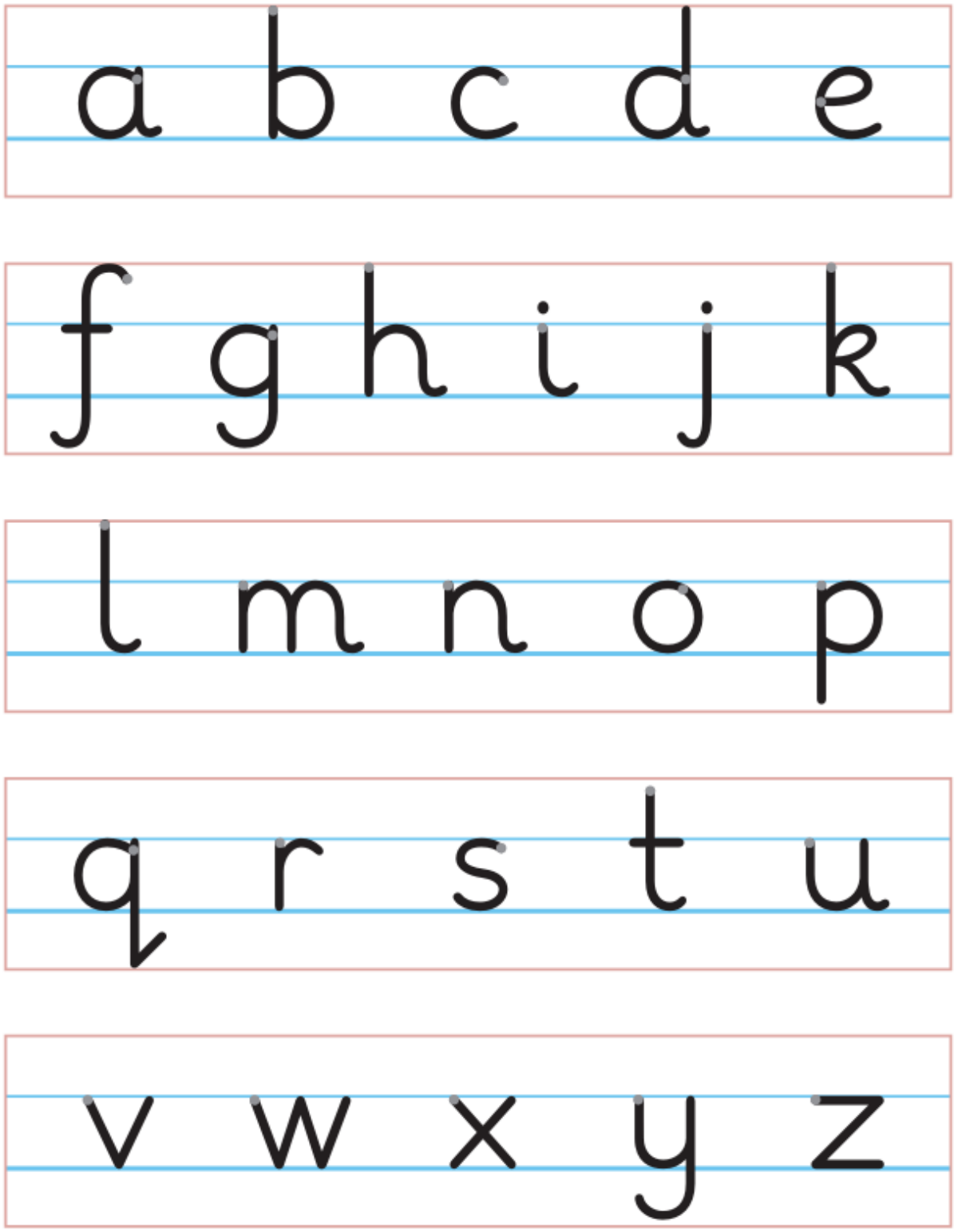
Left-handed pencil grip



Point away the pencil, Pinch it near the tip, Lift if off the table, Spin it round... and grip.

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EYFS and KS1 Printed Letter Formation



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KS2 Joined Letter Formation



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