



Introduction

This policy sets out our approach to handwriting and explains how teachers and teaching assistants at Isbourne Valley School work with all pupils when teaching handwriting.

Aims

- To have clear progression of handwriting through the school.
- To adopt a common approach towards handwriting by all adults when writing in children's books, on the whiteboard or on displays/resources.
- For children to achieve a neat, legible style with correctly formed letters in cursive handwriting.
- For children to develop fluency and speed whilst writing.

Posture

- Chairs and desks in classrooms are matched to children's age and height.
- Children's backs should be straight and their feet resting on the floor. A right-handed child should have their book slanted to the left. A left-handed child the book should have their book slanted to the right.
- The hand which is not holding the pencil or pen holds the paper.
- Children should have both feet flat on the floor.
- Additional aids may be used to support posture: move 'n' sit cushion, writing slope.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Children in EYFS (the reception year) develop fine motor skills and dexterity through activities such as 'Dough disco' and 'Funky fingers'. They are taught to use their thumb and 'pointy' (index) finger to grip a pencil.

We teach letter formation in the same order as the graphemes are introduced during phonics lessons.

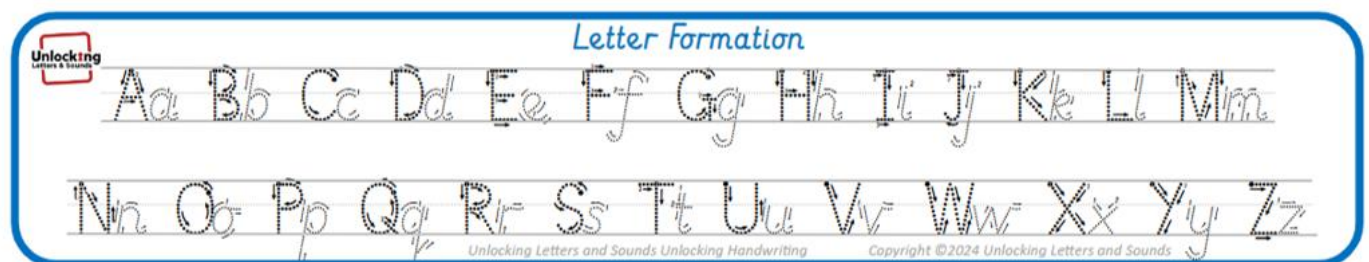
Teachers model writing in print. The children will be exposed to a range of fonts and writing styles in reading books and resources and worksheets.

During their specific handwriting lessons, children use sheets with handwriting guides in line with our phonics scheme, Unlocking Letters and Sounds. In English and other curriculum lessons children usually write on lined paper or in lined books.

Key Stage 1 (KS1)

Children use a well sharpened HB pencil to write. In handwriting lessons, children use sheets with handwriting guides in line with our phonics scheme, Unlocking Letters and Sounds. In phonics, English and other curriculum lessons, children write in lined books.

Our handwriting style in EYFS and KS1 is:



Children in Year 1 are expected to begin to form lower-case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place. From the Spring term in Year 1 the children will be taught to use some strokes to join letters.

Children in Year 2 are expected to form letters of the correct size relative to one another and to start using some of the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters and understand which letters are best left unjoined.

Our handwriting style for joining letters is:

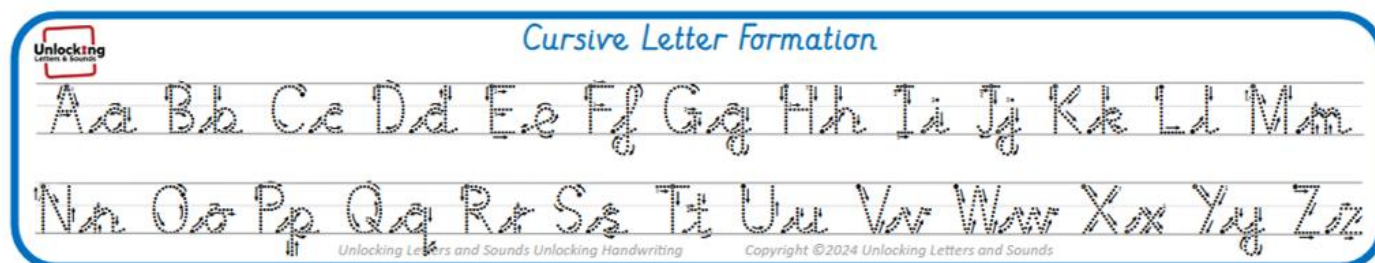


Key Stage 2 (KS2)

Children continue to use a well sharpened HB pencil to write in KS2. When a teacher deems a child ready they can use a pen and will be provided with a handwriting pen. A pencil is always used in maths or for drawing. In handwriting lessons, children use handwriting books with red and blue handwriting lines. In English and other curriculum lessons, children write in lined books.

Teachers model joined handwriting to show the children what their handwriting should look like when they have fully developed their cursive style.

Our agreed handwriting style in KS2 is:



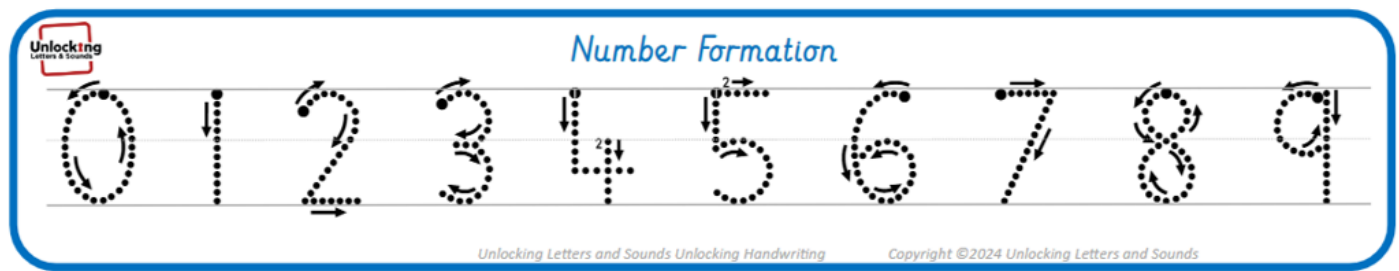
Years 3 and 4

Children in Years 3 & 4 are expected 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.

Years 5 and 6

Children in Years 5 & 6 are expected to write in legible and fluent joined handwriting. We continue to practise joining to and from letters and increase the speed and stamina of the children's handwriting. Children are encouraged to develop their personal handwriting style.

Our number formation throughout the school is:



Equal opportunities and Special needs

All children must have the opportunity and the encouragement to reach their full potential regardless of race, creed or sex. Children with Special Educational needs will be provided with specialist equipment such as pencil grips, coloured paper, posture aids or wider ruled lined paper where necessary. Intervention is available for children who experience significant difficulties to practise pre-writing skills and fine motor coordination.

Homework

Children are encouraged to use the agreed letter formation and joining expectations relevant to their year group in all written home learning.

Adopted by Isbourne Valley School Governing Body on 17th June 2026

Next review Summer term 2027