



Lindal and Marton Primary School

Handwriting Scheme



A Structured Approach to Teaching Letter Formation and Joins

Introduction

This handwriting scheme is designed to provide a structured approach to teaching letter formation and joins, ensuring consistency across all classes. The scheme introduces letters in a logical order based on movement patterns, progressing from simple to more complex formations. Once individual letters are secure, pupils will be taught how to join letters effectively.

The scheme emphasizes:

- Correct letter formation from the outset to prevent the development of bad habits.
- Consistency in size, orientation, and spacing to improve fluency and legibility.
- A gradual progression from individual letters to joined handwriting, reducing cognitive overload.
- Opportunities for overlearning and reinforcement through structured practice.

Phase 1: Developing Pre-Writing Skills (Nursery / Early Reception, as needed)

Before introducing letter formation, children should develop:

- Fine motor skills through activities such as threading, playdough, and mark-making.
- Gross motor control through movements such as sky writing and tracing patterns.
- Familiarity with basic handwriting patterns (e.g., lines, circles, zigzags) to prepare for letter shapes.

Phase 2: Teaching Letter Formation (Reception – Year 1 / as needed for intervention groups)

Letters are grouped by movement patterns rather than alphabetical order. Pupils should practise each letter in isolation before progressing to words.

<p>Set 1 Curly Caterpillar Letters (Anti-clockwise movements)</p>	<p>c o a d g q f e s</p>
<p>Set 2 Long Ladder Letters (Top-to-bottom movements)</p>	<p>l t i u j y</p>
<p>Set 3 One-Armed Robot Letters (Straight down, back up and over)</p>	<p>r b n h m k p</p>
<p>Set 4 Zig-Zag Monster Letters (Diagonal movements)</p>	<p>z v w x</p>

Key Teaching Points:

- Emphasise correct starting points and directionality.
- Teach letters in relation to the lines (ascenders, descenders, and mid-height letters).
- Ensure consistent size and spacing.
- Provide plenty of opportunities for practice using a range of sensory and written activities.

Phase 3: Introducing Letter Joins (Year 1 - Year 2 / as needed for intervention groups)

Once pupils are confident with letter formation, introduce joins systematically.

Set 1 Diagonal Joins to Tall and Small Letters	ai, ar, an, at, as, al, ap, ag
Set 2 Diagonal Joins to Curved Letters	oi, ou, ow, oa
Set 3 Horizontal Joins to Tall and Small Letters	ee, ea, er, en, et, il, ig, in
Set 4 Horizontal Joins to Curved Letters	oo, oa, og, od, or, ob
Set 5 Mixed Joins in High-Frequency Words	and, the, with, was, said, have

Key Teaching Points:

- Model how letters flow together naturally.
- Reinforce that some letters remain unjoined (e.g., letters following capital letters).
- Provide regular opportunities for tracing, copying, and free writing using joined-up script.

Phase 4: Developing Fluency and Speed (Year 3 – Year 4)

By this stage, pupils should be able to write fluently using a consistent, joined style. Teaching should focus on:

- Writing at speed while maintaining legibility through short timed exercises.
- Ensuring correct letter proportions and spacing between words.
- Encouraging pupils to refine their personal handwriting style while maintaining clarity.

Phase 5: Embedding a Neat, Personal Handwriting Style (Year 5 – Year 6)

As pupils develop their confidence, they should:

- Apply neat, joined handwriting consistently across all subjects.
- Develop the ability to adjust their handwriting for different purposes (e.g., neatness for display work, speed for note-taking).
- Be encouraged to take pride in presentation while developing their own natural style.

Assessment and Intervention

Regular assessment will help identify pupils who require additional support. Pupils struggling with letter formation or joins should revisit earlier stages through targeted intervention.

Assessment criteria may include:

- Letter formation and orientation.
- Consistency in size and spacing.
- Ability to join letters fluently.
- Speed and legibility in independent writing.

Aa Bb Cc Dd

Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii

Jj Kk Ll Mm

Nn Oo Pp Qq

Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv

Ww Xx Yy Zz