

The agreed letter shapes we teach are given below, showing the correct starting point and direction of each letter. We are aiming for clear, fluent handwriting which can be written with speed and accuracy so that children can produce a good quality of work in all lessons throughout the curriculum.

LOWER CASE LETTERS

a b c d e

f g h i j k

l m n o p

q r s t u

v w x y z

CAPITAL LETTERS

A B C D E
F G H I J K
L M N O P
Q R S T U
V W X Y Z

The joining sets

Set 1

a c d e h i k l m
n s t u

Twelve letters with exit flicks plus s.

Set 2

a c d e g i j m n o
p q r s u v w x y

Nineteen letters which start at the top of the x-height.

Set 3

b f h k l t

Six letters which start at the top of the ascender.

Set 4

f o r v w

Five letters which finish at the top of the x-height.

The break letters

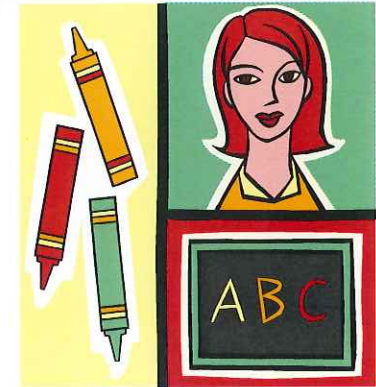
b g j p q x y z

Eight letters after which no join is made. Joins are not made to or from the letter z.

Stepps Primary School



A GUIDE TO HANDWRITING



*Promoting Partnership between
home and school*

How can I help my child with handwriting?

Handwriting still holds its place in the curriculum as a basic skill, allowing children to express themselves in all areas of their learning. Good handwriting becomes a life-long source of pleasure to all who receive or read it. After speech, written information is still the most accessible and creative way of keeping in touch.

How can you help?

Most importantly, you can show that you value and admire the skill.

Have a small selection of handwriting materials available at home—soft pencils, felt tips and some sheets of A4 paper.

Make writing by hand part of your family's routine, including:

- ◇ Keeping in touch with relatives through letters
- ◇ Making lists and labels
- ◇ Leaving notes for one another
- ◇ Design and make home made greetings cards

Display your child's work on a notice board or on the fridge door.

You should correct your child's letter formation as long as it doesn't interrupt the flow of their writing; sometimes it is more helpful for the child to finish the word or sentence than to go back correcting letters as they go along.

What is the correct pencil grip for my child?

The 'pinch grip' is the most comfortable for both right and left handed children and the younger your child is, the easier it is to develop good pencil grip. Triangular pencil grips are useful to help hold

How should my child sit?

Encourage your child to sit properly when writing; this means paying attention to:

- ◇ Sitting in good light
- ◇ Sitting on an upright chair
- ◇ Keeping her/his back straight
- ◇ Keeping her/his head high enough to see the pencil form the letters

Some children like to do their homework lying on the floor, but they can't develop good handwriting this way and their presentation will not do their work justice.

What if my child is left handed?

Some left handed children develop a handwriting style that is cramped or curled round. This makes writing especially hard work for them. Left handed children should be helped to sit properly and may need the paper to be angled to help them keep their wrist comfortable.

What materials should I use?

If you are choosing pens, children get on best with pens that have a bit of bite or resistance. Biro's run too easily over the paper and can be particularly problematic for left handed children. Fibre tipped pens and felt tips are easier to control.

Guidelines can help your child to produce regular, evenly sized writing. Lines set 1cm apart are ideal and a margin around the edge of the page creates a natural border. Border patterns are useful for practising a feel for the rhythm of fluent writing and for encouraging regular sizes and shapes.

NELSONS HANDWRITING

Handwriting styles

There are many different handwriting styles. The most significant differences are in the joining of each pair of letters. Some join every letter to every other letter, resulting in an ornate style (copperplate being a traditional example).

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

Other styles specify 'break' letters which are not joined to a following letter, resulting in a plainer, more 'modern' style.

At Stepps Primary we teach **Nelson handwriting**, a plain, modern style. In an ornate style children can find it difficult to join b, p, s, x and z neatly, whilst loops for g, j, y and f can become extravagant. This can result in the child's handwriting being difficult to read, and the child being disheartened.

We believe the Nelson style promotes the development of clear, legible writing. Good handwriting practice is encouraged in all written work.

In Primary 1 the children experience a variety of hand-eye co-ordination activities, including writing the letters in the air and in sand, painting patterns and letter shapes, tracing and pattern work, overwriting and underwriting. They work on whiteboards with whiteboard pens and form the letters using pencil and paper.