



Hollinswood Primary School and Nursery

Handwriting knowledge and Skills Progression Grid

The ability for children to write legibly is essential in order for them to demonstrate their true potential throughout their school careers (and their lives beyond school) as well as ensuring that they have the ability to communicate effectively using writing.

Nelson handwriting encourages development of an individual style in each child through carefully structured stages, and fully covers the technical aspects of writing: letter formation, basic joins, printing, speed writing and slant.

Nelson handwriting progresses from pre-writing patterns through to the development of an individual style.

	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
New Learning - progression	Use large-muscle movements to wave flags and streamers, paint and make marks.	Sit correctly at the table, holding their pencil comfortably and correctly	Form lower-case letters of the correct size relative to one another.	Use the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined.	Increase the legibility, consistency and quality of handwriting, e.g. by ensuring that the down strokes of letters are parallel and equidistant; that lines of writing are spaced sufficiently so that the ascenders and descenders of the letters do not touch.	Write legibly, fluently and with increasing speed by: Choosing which shape of letter to use when given choices and deciding whether or not to join specific letters. Choosing the writing implement that is best.	
	Use one-handed tools and equipment, for example, making snips in paper with scissors.	Begin to form lower case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place.	Start using some of the diagonal & horizontal strokes needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another are best left unjoined.				
	Use a comfortable grip with good control when holding pens and pencils.	Form capital letters.	Write capitals of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower case letters.				
	Show a preference for a dominant hand.	Form digits 0-9	Use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters.				
	Write some letters accurately.	Understand which letters belong to which handwriting 'families' and practise these.	Write digits in the correct size and orientation.				
	Develop small motor skills so that they can use a range of tools competently, safely and confidently.						
	Use their core muscle strength to achieve a good posture when sitting at a table and sitting on the floor						
	Develop the foundations of a handwriting style which is fast, accurate and efficient.						
	Form lower case and capital letters mostly correctly.						

Autumn 1	Unit 1: Developing fine motor control; using correct pencil grip.	Unit 1: Introducing letter families, set 1. c, o, a, d, g, f, s, q, e	Unit 1: Practising joining to the top. ai, ay, ey	Unit 1: Forming descenders accurately. sp, spr, pri, pru	Unit 1: Practising joining from the letter e. eat, eac, ead	Unit 1: Practising joining to and from the letter r. copy are words	Unit 1: Developing an individual handwriting style. copy country names
	Unit 2: Developing fine motor control; hand-eye coordination.	Unit 2: Practising letter families, set 1. co, ad, gs, qe	Unit 2: Practising the join from the letter e. ee, ea, ey	Unit 2: Forming ascenders accurately. al, all, at	Unit 2: Practising joining to and from the letter s. ask, asp, ast	Unit 2: Ensuring letters are consistent in height and size. copy words and add ing then ed	Unit 2: Revising slanted writing. copy ve words
	Unit 3: Left to right directional flow; producing a controlled line.	Unit 3: Introducing letter families, set 2. i, l, t, j, u, y	Unit 3: Practising joining from the letter i. ie, ide, igh	Unit 3: Practising the diagonal join to a small letter. ci, cir, cer, cen	Unit 3: Practising writing letters at the correct size and height. ried, ries, rief	Unit 3: Developing fluency. copy ire words	Unit 3: Practising keeping letters in correct proportion. add prefixes
	Unit 4: Trace, copy and complete patterns; pre-letter formation practice	Unit 4: Practising letter families, set 2. it, tl, uy, jy	Unit 4: Practising the horizontal join. oa, ow, oe	Unit 4: Practising the diagonal join to a tall letter. mb, imb, umb, amb	Unit 4: Practising writing double letters. tt, ll, rr, ee	Unit 4: Ensuring the letter t is at the correct height. copy inter words	Unit 4: Practising writing fluently and legibly. add suffixes
	Unit 5: Individual letter formation; trace and write the letter s.	Unit 5: Introducing letter families, set 3. b, h, k, m, n, p, r	Unit 5: Practising the size and height of letters. oo, ue, ew	Unit 5: Practising joining to and from the letter l. ale, dle, ele, tle	Unit 5: Practising consistency in spacing. sce, sca, sci	Unit 5: Forming and joining the letter s. copy words and their plurals	Unit 5: More practice forming and joining descenders. add vowel suffixes
	Unit 6: Individual letter formation; trace and write the letter a.						
	Unit 7: Individual letter formation; trace and write the letter t.						
	Unit 8: Individual letter formation; trace and write the letter p.						
	Unit 9: Trace patterns; practise patterns for forming s, a, t, p						
	Unit 10: Individual letter formation; trace and write the letter i.						

Autumn 2	Unit 11: Individual letter formation; trace and write the letter n.	Unit 6: Practising letter families, set 3. nk, rp, nm, bh	Unit 6: Practising joining from the letter o. oi, ou, oy	Unit 6: Practising joining to the letter y. ly, lly, iky, iny	Unit 6: Practising using a diagonal join. un, unn, inn, imm	Unit 6: Practising break letters. copy words containing break letters	Unit 6: Forming and joining the letter t. copy and complete word sums
	Unit 12: Individual letter formation; trace and write the letter m.	Unit 7: Introducing letter families, set 4. v, w, x, z	Unit 7: Practising capital letters. Whole alphabet	Unit 7: Practising forming the letter s correctly. es, ies, ses, eys	Unit 7: Practising the horizontal join. rep, rem, rea, reo	Unit 7: Practising writing a playscript. copy stage directions	Unit 7: Practising joining to and from the letter o. hon, one, oto, cro, ono
	Unit 13: Individual letter formation; trace and write the letter d.	Unit 8: Practising letter families, set 4. vw, xw, xz, zz	Unit 8: Practising joining to the letter a. ea, ear, ead	Unit 8: Practising joining from the letter i. ie, in, il, ill	Unit 8: More practice joining to the letter y. ly, ily, ity, ify	Unit 8: Practising printing. copy country names and dates	Unit 8: Practising punctuation. " " ! . ?
	Unit 14: Trace, copy and complete patterns; practise patterns for forming i, n, m and d.	Unit 9: Practising capital letters. E, F, H, I, T, L	Unit 9: Practising joining to the letter r. er, ir, ur	Unit 9: Practising spacing between letters. ed, ned, hed, ked	Unit 9: Practising speedwriting. speedily, quickly, swiftly, briskly	Unit 9: Forming ascenders correctly. able, ible, ably, ibly	Unit 9: More practice of slanting writing. aeroplane, aerobatics, aerodrome, microdot, microscope, transaction
	Unit 15: Individual letter formation; trace and write the letter g.	Unit 10: Practising capital letters. A, K, M, N, V, W, X, Y, Z	Unit 10: Practising the horizontal join. ou, out, ouw	Unit 10: Practising writing with a slant.	Unit 10: Practising the size and height of letters. ous, ious, eous	Unit 10: Practising presentation. copy ight words	Unit 10: Practising writing capital letters. whole alphabet
	Unit 16: Individual letter formation; trace and write the letter o.						
	Unit 17: Individual letter formation; trace and write the letter c.						
	Unit 18: Individual letter formation; trace and write the letter k.						
	Unit 19: Practise individual patterns for g, o, c and k; revise individual letter formations.						
	Unit 20: Individual letter formation; trace and write the letter ck.						

Spring 1	Unit 21: Individual letter formation; trace and write the letter e.	Unit 11: Practising capital letters. B, D, C, G, O, Q, S, P, R, U, J	Unit 11: Practising small letters; same height and size. or, aw, au	Unit 11: Practising forming capital letters. whole alphabet	Unit 11: Practising spacing within words. constellation, station, relaxation, education	Unit 11: More practice with presentation. copy antonyms	Unit 11: Practising spacing. frightened, shouted, pleaded, lighthouse
	Unit 22: Individual letter formation; trace and write the letter u.	Unit 12: Practising numbers. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Unit 12: Practising joining to the letter r. ar, air, are	Unit 12: Practising writing the letter t at the correct height. ti, tio, cti, ati	Unit 12: Practising joining to and from the letter w. owf, owb, owm, owd	Unit 12: Ensuring correct formation of the letter k. ocket, ticket, bucket, acket	Unit 12: Practising writing instructions. Check!, Wait!, Stop!, Dismount!, Choose!
	Unit 23: Individual letter formation; trace and write the letter r.	Unit 13: Introducing break letters. age, ape, aze	Unit 13: Practising joining to ascenders. al, all, alk	Unit 13: Practising spacing letters consistently. ew, ev, ex	Unit 13: Practising joining from the letter m. circumnavigate, circumstance, circumvent	Unit 13: Forming the letter y correctly. bully, fully, filly, belly, welly, chilly	Unit 13: Practising fluency, speed and legibility. queue, question, queen, quench, quest
	Unit 24: Individual letter formation; trace and write the letter h	Unit 14: Practising consistent size and height of small letters. un, um, ur	Unit 14: Practising joining from the letter o. ot, on, oe	Unit 14: Practising forming double letters correctly. ii, ll, tt, rr, nn, mm cc, oo, dd, ss, ff, ee	Unit 14: Practising joining to the letter a from the letter w. wan, was, wav, wax	Unit 14: Practising speed and fluency. add prefixes to words	Unit 14: Practising the diagonal join. ent, ant, ence, ance
	Unit 25: Individual letter formation; trace and write the letter b.	Unit 15: Diagonal join to set 1 letters. ed, eg, ac	Unit 15: Practising printing. whole alphabet	Unit 15: Practising joining to the letter e. he, we, re	Unit 15: Practising using the diagonal joining line. ship, ment, less, ness	Unit 15: Practising punctuation. ;, ', -, !	Unit 15: Practising the horizontal join. wri, wra, wro, wre
	Unit 26: Individual letter formation; trace and write the letter f.						
	Unit 27: Individual letter formation; trace and write the letter l.						
	Unit 28: Double letter formation; trace and write the double consonants ll and ss.						
	Unit 29: Individual letter formation; trace and write the letter j.						
	Unit 30: Individual letter formation; trace and write the letter v.						

Spring 2	Unit 31: Individual letter formation; trace and write the letter w.	Unit 16: Diagonal join to set 1 and 2 letters. id, iu, ig, iy	Unit 16: Practising joining to/from the letter c. ice, ace, cel	Unit 16: Practising joining to the letter k. ick, uck, ack	Unit 16: Practising speedwriting. department, ten o'clock, accident and emergency	Unit 16: Ensuring consistency in letter sizes. copy ough words	Unit 16: Practising forming letters at the correct height and size. copy connectives
	Unit 32: Individual letter formation; trace and write the letter x.	Unit 17: Diagonal join to set 3 letters. ar, an, am, ap	Unit 17: Practising writing the letter g. age, dge, nge, gen	Unit 17: Practising the second join. ch, che, cho, cha, chi	Unit 17: Practising joining from the letter i. lig, rig, tig, mig	Unit 17: Practising speedwriting. write words in full and short form	Unit 17: Leaving the correct space between letters. ic, de, ad, as, ta, at, th, al, af, ef, fl, ff, wh, rl, rt, rd
	Unit 33: Individual letter formation; trace and write the letter y.	Unit 18: Diagonal join to set 4 letters. aw, ew, ex, ux	Unit 18: Practising the diagonal join. le, el, al, il	Unit 18: Practising joining from the letter e. ey, ei, eigh	Unit 18: Practise the diagonal join to ascenders. al, all, alt, afl	Unit 18: Forming small letters correctly. copy ea words	Unit 18: Practising joining to the letter r. cracker, talker, shoulder, calculator, interior
	Unit 34: Individual letter formation; trace and write the letter z	Unit 19: Diagonal join to the top of set 1 letters. if, ef, ief	Unit 19: Practising the two ways of joining the letter s. sh, as, es	Unit 19: Practising the horizontal join. ous, mous, ious	Unit 19: Practising joining to and from the letter f. ff, lfs, lfe, ife	Unit 19: Practising forming and joining the letter f. fa, fu, fe, fl, ft, ff	Unit 19: Practising horizontal joins. ary, ory, ery
	Unit 35: Individual letter formation; trace and write the letter q.	Unit 20: Diagonal join to the top of set 2 letters. il, ai, ail	Unit 20: Practising joining to the letter y. ky, hy, ly	Unit 20: Practising joining from the letter a. ap, ar, an	Unit 20: Practising joining to and from the letter e. rec, red, ved, ves	Unit 20: Practising writing with a slant. ious, eous, cious, tious	Unit 20: Practising printing. whole alphabet
	Unit 36: Individual letter formations of 'anti-clockwise' round letter family.						
	Unit 37: Individual letter formations of 'down and retrace up' letter family.						
	Unit 38: Forming letters correctly to form words; writing labels clearly.						
	Unit 39: Form ascenders accurately; trace and write the digraph ch.						
	Unit 40: Form ascenders accurately; trace and write the digraph th.						

Summer 1	<p>Unit 41: Place a dot over the letter i; trace and write the digraph ai.</p> <p>Unit 42: Form ascenders and descenders; trace and write the trigraph igh.</p> <p>Unit 43: Form letters the correct size; trace and write the digraph ar.</p> <p>Unit 44: Form letters correctly; trace and write the digraph oa.</p> <p>Unit 45: Form letters correctly; trace and write the digraph oi.</p> <p>Unit 46: Form letters correctly; trace and write the digraph ow.</p> <p>Unit 47: Form letters the correct size; trace and write the trigraph air.</p> <p>Unit 48: Trace and write the capital letters A and Z; trace and write words.</p> <p>Unit 49: Trace and write the capital letters V and W; trace and write words.</p> <p>Unit 50: Trace and write the capital letters B and D; trace and write words.</p>	<p>Unit 21: Diagonal join to the top of set 3 letters. ck, ch, tch</p> <p>Unit 22: To form and join from the letter w. wa, wo, fo, fa</p> <p>Unit 23: Practising the horizontal join. oon, oom</p> <p>Unit 24: Horizontal join to set 3 letters. or, ore, orn</p> <p>Unit 25: Practising the fourth join to set 1 letters. of, ff</p>	<p>Unit 21: Practising joining to the letter g. ting, ring, king</p> <p>Unit 22: Reviewing the four handwriting joins. kn, mb, wr, wh</p> <p>Unit 23: Practising joining from the letter w. war, wan, wap</p> <p>Unit 24: Practising correct height and size of letters. ily, ely, kly</p> <p>Unit 25: Punctuation. I'm, I'll, he's, she's</p>	<p>Unit 21: Practising with punctuation. ! ? - " ' , ' ' ?</p> <p>Unit 22: Practising diagonal joins to the letter y. ly, ky, ny</p> <p>Unit 23: Practising joining to and from the letter r. ure, sure, ture</p> <p>Unit 24: Practising joining from the letter w. who, wha, whe, whi</p> <p>Unit 25: Practising forming numerals correctly. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9</p>	<p>Unit 21: Practising punctuation. , ' ! ?</p> <p>Unit 22: Practising consistency in forming and joining letters. ear, are, rew, new</p> <p>Unit 23: Practising printing to make captions. whole alphabet</p> <p>Unit 24: Practising joining to and from the letter v. live, tive, sive, five</p> <p>Unit 25: Practising break letters. bl, pl, gl</p>	<p>Unit 21: Practising printing. copy an address</p> <p>Unit 22: Practising speedwriting. copy patterns</p> <p>Unit 23: Practising writing decorated capital letters. whole alphabet</p> <p>Unit 24: Practising writing letters. copy addresses</p> <p>Unit 25: Practising paragraphs. copy a paragraph</p>	<p>Unit 21: Practising paragraphs. copy a paragraph</p> <p>Unit 22: Practising writing double letters. cc, oo, gg, ss, ff, ee, rr, mm, pp, ii, ll, tt</p> <p>Unit 23: Practising spacing within words. by, my, fly, soldier, sufficient, variety, achieve, conscience, science</p> <p>Unit 24: Ensuring letters are the correct proportion. brave, hare, mouse, tortoise, solemn, lake, pancake, diamonds</p> <p>Unit 25: Practising presentation. draw borders</p>
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Summer 2	Unit 51: Trace and write the capital letters C and G; trace and write words.	Unit 26: Practising the fourth join to set 2 letters. wl, vl, rl	Unit 26: Practising joining to/from the letter i. cian, sion, tion	Unit 26: Practising writing silent letters. wra, wri, kni	Unit 26: Practising drafting and editing.	Unit 26: Practising presentation. copy patterns	Unit 26: Practising fluency. copy pronouns
	Unit 52: Trace and write the capital letters S and U; trace and write words.	Unit 27: Practising break letters. b, p, z, j, g, q, y	Unit 27: Practising joining to/from the letter s. less, ness	Unit 27: Practising joining from the letter f. fte, fir, fin	Unit 27: Practising speedwriting. 1-10 in numbers and words	Unit 27: Revising difficult joins. ve, we, oe, fe, re	Unit 27: Practising speedwriting. copy synonyms
	Unit 53: Trace and write the capital letters T and F; trace and write words	Unit 28: Revising the four handwriting joins. ai, al, ow, ol	Unit 28: Practising joining from the letter e. er, ier, est, iest	Unit 28: Practising writing decorated capital letters. whole alphabet	Unit 28: Practise printing to make a poster. days of the week	Unit 28: Looking at different handwriting styles. copy letters	Unit 28: Practising presentation. copy a poem
	Unit 54: Trace and write the capital letters T and L; trace and write words.						
	Unit 55: Pre-Numeral Patterns.						
	Unit 56: Individual numeral formation; trace and write the numerals 0, 1, 2, 3, 4.						
	Unit 57: Individual numeral formation; trace and write the numerals 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.						
	Unit 58: Individual numeral/number word formation; trace the numerals/number words 1,2,3,4,5.						
	Unit 59: Individual numeral/number word formation; trace the numerals/number words 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.						
	Unit 60: Individual word formation; trace and write the numbers and words.						