

At Birkwood Primary School, we believe that all children, by the end of KS2, should have the ability to produce fluent, legible and, eventually, speedy handwriting. We aim to make handwriting an automatic process to free up working memory for compositional and creative thinking. We believe that handwriting is a basic skill that influences the quality of work throughout the curriculum, therefore we provide children with purposeful and plentiful opportunities to practise their handwriting regularly. Handwriting requires frequent and discrete, direct teaching. The preparation to write begins within the foundation stage and progresses from EYFS through school with a carefully planned handwriting programme bespoke to Birkwood. We expect that children have daily opportunities for discrete handwriting practice, until it becomes automatic. Joined handwriting in a cursive style is the ultimate goal, with adaptations for specific individuals, including left-handed pupils, where appropriate.

<https://nha-handwriting.org.uk/handwriting/help-for-teachers/handwriting-teaching-in-a-nutshell/>

<https://nha-handwriting.org.uk/handwriting/articles/continuous-cursive-cure-or-curse/>

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/projects-and-evaluation/projects/helping-handwriting-shine>

Handwriting – Whole School Progression Map

Teaching Sequence in Handwriting

Birkwood Primary School follows the Helping Handwriting Shine lesson structure



Prepare (up to 5mins)

- Recall/remember
- 4ps

Warm Up (up to 10mins)

- see examples, use models

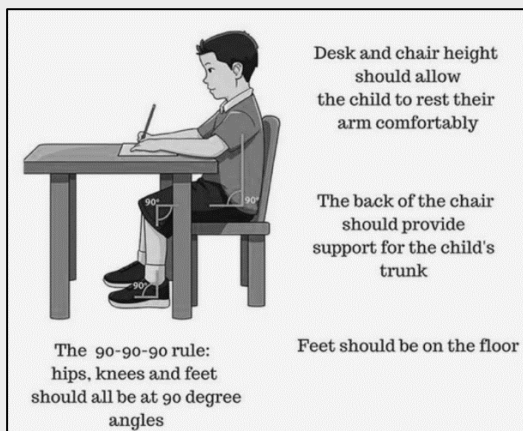
Main Activity (up to 15mins)

Letter/number formation, capital & lower case

- intro model
- single letter / bigram join practice
- word practice
- sentence practice (when appropriate)

Metacognitive reflection

- highlight best based on model
- paired discussion **why** the best
- next steps to progress based on model



Four-letter families - order they are taught at Birkwood Years 1-6

Curly Caterpillar Letters:

c, a, o, d, g, q, e, s

Ladder Letters:

l, i, t, u

One-Armed Robot Letters:

r, b, n, h, m, k, p

Zigzag Monster Letters:

w, w, x, z

Complex letters from the 4 families:

f, j, y

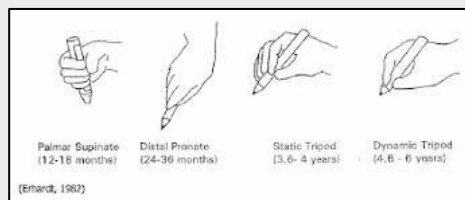
Continuous teaching of

Capital Letters A-Z **do not join**

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

Digits 1-9

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9



Teaching Sequence

- Children learn to print (RWI poster)
- Children add flicks (pre-cursive poster)
- Add ticks & flicks (cursive poster)
- Children learn to join (cursive joined)
- Children become fluent joiners

Four Main Joins

Order that are taught and examples at Birkwood:

1a **Diagonal joins** to letters without ascenders
e.g.: *ai, ar, un, am, ear, aw, ir*
etc

1b **Diagonal joins** to letters with ascenders
e.g.: *ab, ul, it, ib, if, ub, th, ck,*
ch, it etc

ft, fl, hu, ti ki, du, up, fe, fu
etc

2a **Horizontal joins** to letters without ascenders
e.g.: *ou, vi, wi, op, ow, ov, ti,*
ru, ve, we, re etc

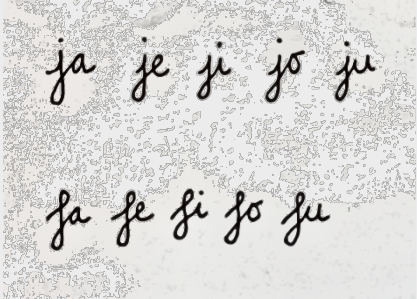
2b **Horizontal joins** to letters with ascenders
e.g.: *ob, ol, wh, it, of, rt, rk etc*

*EYFS to adapt sequence to mirror RWI where possible

<p>Y1</p>	<p>Teach one lower-case letter per day Teach lower case letters relative size and sitting on the line (all letters start in the air)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write name independently using the correctly formed lower case letters with a capital letter at the beginning (1 week) • Teach digits 1-9 (2 weeks) <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9</p> <p>CC Letters: c, a, o, d, g, q, e, s (2 weeks) L Letters: l, i, t, u, (1 week) OR Letters: r, b, n, h, m, k, p (2 weeks)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ZM Letters: v, w, x, z (1 week) • Complex letters: f, j, y (1 week) • Recap digits (1 week) • Teach to write surname independently (1 week) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach capitals <p>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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeat and consolidate lower case sequence • Practice words / dictated sentences • Revisit harder letters • Ensure relative size • Ensure letters sitting on the line • Ensure ascenders and descenders are the correct length • Ensure 'dangling' letters sit and dangle • Ensure correct spacing of letters • Ensure correct spacing of words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add flick away where appropriate to each letter when ready (see precursive poster) • Build speed in preparation for Year 2 when ready
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<p>Y2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach ticks and flicks needed to join individual letters in sequence (see cursive poster) <p>CC Letters: <i>c, a, o, d, g, q, e, s</i> L Letters: <i>l, i, t, u,</i> OR Letters: <i>r, b, n, h, m, k, p</i> ZM Letters: <i>x, w, x, z</i> Complex letters: <i>f, j, y</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revisit Capitals Letter, word and sentence level Build speed Ensure relative size Ensure letters sitting on the line Ensure ascenders and descenders are the correct length Ensure 'dangling' letters sit and dangle Ensure correct spacing of letters Ensure correct spacing of words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach diagonal join to letter 'c' <i>ac, ic, uc, ec</i> Teach diagonal join from letters without ascenders to letters without ascenders <i>ac, ae, ao, ai, au, an, am, ar, ca, ce, co ci, cu, cr ia, ea, ec, eo, ei, en, ie, em, im, io, in, um, un ma, mi, mm, mo, no, in, ir, ze, zo</i> Teach diagonal join from a letter with an ascender to a letter without an ascender <i>ba, be, bi, bo, bu, br, da, de, di, do, du, dr, ha, he, hi, ho, hu, ka, ke, ki, ko, ku, la, le, li, lo, lu, lc, lr, ln, ta, te, ti, to, tu, tr</i> Teach diagonal join from letters without ascenders to dangling letters <i>ag, ay, aj ap, cy, ig, ip, mp, np, ug, up af, ay, ey, ef, ej, ef, if, eg, ig ag, dy, mp, np, ug, up dy aq,</i> Teach diagonal join from dangling letters <i>ga, ge, gi, go, gu, pa, pe, pi, po, pu, pl, pr, ps, ph, fa, fe, fi, fo, fu, fl, ja, je, ji, jo, ju, ya, ye, yi, yo,</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach diagonal join from a letter without an ascender to a letter with an ascender <i>ab, ad, ah, ak, al, at, eb, ed, ek, el, et, ib, id, ih, ik, il, it, sh, sk, sl, st, ub, uh, uk, ul, ut</i> Teach ascender to ascender diagonal joins <i>ll, th bl,</i> Teach diagonal join to letter 's' <i>as, cs, ds, es, hs, is, ks, ls, ms, ns, ts, us, gs, ps, ts, ss</i> Teach diagonal join to the letter 'e' <i>ae, be, ce, de, ee, fe, ge, he, ie, je, ke, le, me, ne, pe, se, te, ue ys, zs</i> Join from the letter 's' <i>sa, se, si, sl, sm, sn, so, sp, ss, st, su, sw</i> <p>We do not join the letters <i>x</i> and <i>q</i> in Year 2 We do not make horizontal joins in Year 2 Cursive = letters start on the line Some letters are best left unjoined in Year 2</p>
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<p>Y3</p>	<p>Autumn 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recap ticks and flicks needed to join individual letters in Year 2 sequence <p>(see cursive poster)</p> <p>CC Letters: <i>c, a, o, d, g, q, e, s</i></p> <p>L Letters: <i>l, i, t, u,</i></p> <p>OR Letters: <i>r, b, n, h, m, k, p</i></p> <p>ZM Letters: <i>x, w, x, z</i></p> <p>Complex letters: <i>f, j, y</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recap diagonal join to letter 'c' <p><i>ac, ic, uc, ec</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recap diagonal join from letters without ascenders to letters without ascenders <p><i>ac, ae, ao, ai, au, an, am, ar, ca, ce, co ci, cu, cr ia, ea, ec, eo, ei, en, ie, em, im, io, in, um, un ma, mi, mm, mo, no, in, ir, ze, zo</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recap diagonal join from a letter with an ascender to a letter without an ascender <p><i>ba, be, bi, bo, bu, br, da, de, di, do, du, dr, ha, he, hi, ho, hu, ka, ke, ki, ko, ku, la, le, li, lo, lu, lc, lr, ln, ta, te, ti, to, tu, tr</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recap diagonal join from letters without ascenders to dangling letters <p><i>ag, ay, aj ap, cy, ig, ip, mp, np, ug, up af, ay, ey, ef, ej, ef, if, eg, ig ag, dy, mp, np, ug, up dy ag,</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recap diagonal join from dangling letters <p><i>ga, ge, gi, go, gu, pa, pe, pi, po, pu, pl, pr, ps, ph, fa, fe, fi, fo, fu, fl, ja, je, ji, jo, ju, ya, ye, yi, yo,</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recap diagonal join from a letter without an ascender to a letter with an ascender <p><i>ab, ad, ah, ak, al, at, eb, ed, ek, el, et, ib, id, ih, ik, il, it, sh, sk, sl, st, ub, uh, uk, ul, ut</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recap ascender to ascender diagonal joins <p><i>ll, th bl, bb, dd, lk,</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recap diagonal join to letter 's' <p><i>as, cs, ds, es, hs, is, ks, ls, ms, ns, ts, us, gs, ps, ts, ss</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recap diagonal join to the letter 'e' <p><i>ae, be, ce, de, ee, fe, ge, he, ie, je, ke, le, me, ne, pe, se, te, ue ys, zs</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach the horizontal joins <p><i>oa, oc, oo od, oe, og, oi, oj, om, on, or, os, ou, ov, ow, ox, oy, oz</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue with horizontal joins <p><i>ra, rc, rg, rm, rn, rp, rr, rs, ru, ri, ro</i></p> <p><i>va, vi, vo, vs, vu, ve</i></p> <p><i>wa, wi, wo, ws, wu, wy we</i></p> <p><i>oe, re, ve, we</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recap harder diagonal joins <p>Letters, bigrams, word and sentence level</p> <p>Dictated Sentences</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue with most difficult horizontal joins <p><i>ob, of, oh, ok, ol, ot, rb, rh, rk, rl, rt vb, vf, vh, vk, vl, vt wb, wf, wh, wk, wl, wt</i></p> <p>Letter, word and sentence level</p> <p>We do not join the letters <i>x</i> and <i>q</i> in Year 3</p> <p>NB: For some children, horizontal joins should not be forced. Instead, start each letter on the line and leave some letters best not joined</p>
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<p>Y4</p>	<p>Revise and Consolidate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim to recap all Year 3 in Autumn Term • Assess which joins need reteaching / recapping • Practise writing words with capital letters eg: HELP! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to recap Year 3 if necessary • Then teach final join - join to letters with hooks, lines and loops  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practise combining all 4 joins when writing bigrams, words and sentences • Practice writing dictated sentences • Practise writing words with capital letters eg: DANGER! 	<p>Consolidation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recap on the 4 basic joins • Recap on specific letter joins to ensure children are writing in a fluent style • Begin to join x and q if this aids fluency, otherwise leave unjoined • Build speed <p>NB: For some children, horizontal joins should not be forced. Instead, start each letter on the line and leave some letters best not joined</p>
<p>UKS2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefly recap diagonal and horizontal joins • Focus on maintaining a consistent and fluent style • Practice joins, words, spellings, vocabulary, sentences as appropriate • Work towards writing with a pen • Practice maintaining legibility when writing at speed • Continue to improve handwriting through writing more sustained passages of writing, both copied and from their imagination 		