

St Mark's assessment and progression in handwriting



The statements below have been derived from the Early Learning Goals 2021 and the National Curriculum 2014. Underlined statements are essential skills which need securing within a year group before progressing to the following year groups.

Year group	Key learning in handwriting - End of year expectations				
Reception ELG including key learning for physical development and writing	Use a range of small tools, including scissors, paint brushes and cutlery. Hold a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing - using tripod grip in almost all cases. Write left to right and top to bottom.	Begin to show accuracy and care when drawing. Form most lower case letters correctly; starting and finishing in the right place, going the right way round, correctly orientated.	Write recognisable letters most of which are correctly formed. Form letters from their name correctly.	Know how to form clear ascenders ('tall letters') and descenders ('tails').	Form some capital letters correctly, including the initial letter of their name.
Year 1	Sit correctly at the table and hold a pencil correctly. <u>Hold with an effective grip.</u>	<u>Form lower case letters correctly - starting and finishing in the right place, going the right way round correctly orientated.</u>	Form digits 0-9 correctly. Practise forming letters in handwriting families: Long ladder letters i, j, l, t, u One armed robot b, h, m, n, p, r Curly caterpillars c, s, d, e, g, o, q, f, s Zig zag k, v, w, x, y, z	Have clear ascenders and descenders	Form capital letters correctly
Year 2		<u>Form lower case letters of correct size relative to one another</u>	Write capital letters and digits of the correct size relative to one another and to lower case letters. Use spacing between words which reflects the size of the letters.	Start using some diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another are best left unjoined.	<u>Use capital letters appropriately.</u> Orientate capital letters correctly.

Year 3			<u>Write legibly</u>	<u>Form and use the four basic handwriting joins</u>	
Year 4			<u>Write with consistency in size and proportion of letters e.g. by ensuring that the downstrokes of letters are parallel and equidistant; that lines of writing are space sufficiently so that ascenders and descenders of letters do not touch.</u>	<u>Use joined style throughout their independent writing.</u>	
Year 5			<u>Choose when appropriate to print rather than join e.g. printing for a labelling a scientific diagram.</u>	Write fluently using a joined style as appropriate for independent writing.	
Year 6	Choose the writing implement that is best suited for a task. E.g. pencil for quick notes, handwriting pen for letters, markers for a poster.			Write using a joined style with increasing speed.	