

Nelson Handwriting Progression

Nelson Handwriting is a structured programme from Reception to Year 6 with a strong emphasis on consistent modelling and regular practice throughout. Pupils are taught to hold a pencil and form letters and numerals correctly from the very beginning. Teachers and pupils are fully supported with a teachers' guide, pupil books, workbooks and additional support and practice materials, as they develop a clear, legible and fluent handwriting style. Building stamina, pupils learn to write with increasing confidence and speed while still taking pride in their presentation.

Overview of Progression

Year Group	Focus and Expectations
Reception/P1 Starter Level	Develop gross and fine motor control through play and mark making. Encourage holding the pencil in an appropriate tripod grip. Make simple patterns and letter shapes. Introduce the correct starting points of letters, in letter families and numerals.
Year 1/P2 Pupil Book 1A/1B	Secure correct letter formation of lowercase and capital letters. Write on the line with consistent size and spacing. Introduce the concept of joining through pattern work and parallel lines. Begin to join some letters to make words.
Year 2/P3 Pupil Book 2	Continue to build consistency in size, shape and orientation. Practise the diagonal and horizontal joins. Ensure the ascender touches the top line and descender falls below the line. Join letters in high frequency and phonetically regular words.
Year 3/P4 Pupil Book 3	Continue to practise all four handwriting joins. Begin to join handwriting in all writing tasks (where appropriate). Introduce break letters (b, g, j, p, q, y, z) and when not to join. Start to slant writing slightly to the right to build speed and fluency.
Year 4/P5 Pupil Book 4	Reinforce the correct size and height of letters relative to each other. Ensure letters with ascenders and descenders are formed correctly and in proportion. Write with increased speed and accuracy across longer pieces. Take pride and care with presentation.
Year 5/P6 Pupil Book 5	Practise the difficult joins. Choose the correct style of writing for different purposes. Begin to develop an individual style that is legible, clear and fluent. Continue to reinforce clear, legible, joined handwriting in all subjects.
Year 6/P7 Pupil Book 6	Continue to practise handwriting and all the skills that have been taught. Practise writing for particular tasks e.g. note taking, labelling, writing an address or filling in a form. Write clearly and legibly in preparation for secondary school expectations.