



Nelson Handwriting Progression at Greenside

At Greenside, we follow the Nelson Handwriting programme from Reception to Year 6. This structured scheme supports children in developing a clear, legible and fluent handwriting style that builds confidence and supports writing stamina.



We place a strong emphasis on consistent modelling, regular practice, and pride in presentation across all year groups.

Overview of Progression

Year Group	Focus and Expectations
Reception	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Develop gross and fine motor control through play and mark making- Introduce letter formation using simple patterns and single letter shapes- Begin to learn correct starting points and letter families
Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 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
Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Introduce diagonal and horizontal joins (where appropriate)- Continue to build consistency in size, spacing and orientation- Begin joining letters in high-frequency and phonetically regular words
Year 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Reinforce all joins and begin joining handwriting in all writing tasks- Introduce break letters (e.g. b, g, j, p, q, y, z) and when not to join- Build fluency and automaticity while maintaining legibility
Year 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Consolidate all joins and refine fluency and neatness- Focus on writing with increased speed and accuracy across longer pieces- Emphasise spacing, consistency and overall presentation
Year 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Promote a confident, personal handwriting style- Emphasise handwriting as a tool for thinking and extended writing- Continue to reinforce clear, legible joins in all subjects
Year 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Maintain a fluent, joined and mature handwriting style- Encourage individuality while retaining clarity- Prepare pupils for secondary school expectations around handwriting and presentation

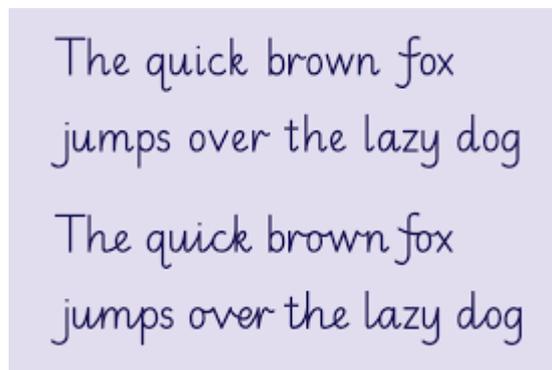


Letter Joins - Examples

We teach the following types of joins, as outlined by Nelson Handwriting:

- **Diagonal Joins:** e.g. *ai, ou, ar, er*
- **Horizontal Joins:** e.g. *oi, ve, re, the*
- **No Joins after Break Letters:** e.g. *b, g, j, p, q, x, y, z* are not usually joined from.

You may notice that children do not always join every letter, especially when developing fluency or transitioning to a more mature personal style.



Posture and Pencil Grip

Good handwriting begins with good habits. Across all year groups, we teach:

Pencil Grip

- Tripod grip: thumb and first two fingers control the pencil
- Pencil held firmly but not tightly
- For left-handed writers: correct positioning to avoid smudging and awkward wrist angles

Posture and Paper Position

- Sit upright with both feet on the floor
- Paper tilted slightly for a natural writing angle
- Non-writing hand used to steady the page



Our Expectations

- Children should always take pride in the presentation of their written work.
- Handwriting is taught regularly (at least 3x per week in KS1 and 2x per week in KS2).
- Expectations around handwriting are consistent across the curriculum, not just in English.
- Children in KS2 are expected to use joined writing in all subjects unless otherwise advised (e.g., SEND adaptation).