



St Breock Handwriting Progression Map

Aims

At St Breock, our aim is to support and encourage progression and development of each child's handwriting into a fluent, legible and neat style that will support their spelling and composition.

Strong Foundations

Handwriting at St Breock starts with our youngest learners. In our Nursery we focus on the development of pre writing skills in order to build strong foundations before writing. As children move into Reception, we start more structured handwriting sessions focusing on letter formation to enable them to achieve the Early Learning Goals at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage

Gross Motor Skills

- Negotiate space and obstacles safely, with consideration for themselves and others.
- Demonstrate strength, balance and coordination when playing.
- Move energetically, such as running, jumping, dancing, hopping, skipping and climbing.

Fine Motor Skills

- Hold a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing – using the tripod grip in almost all cases.
- Use a range of small tools, including scissors, paintbrushes and cutlery.
- Begin to show accuracy and care when drawing.

Writing

- Write recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed.
- Spell words by identifying sounds in them and representing the sounds with a letter or letters.
- Write simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others

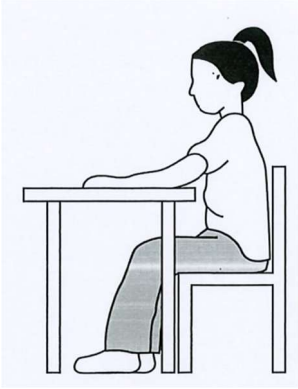
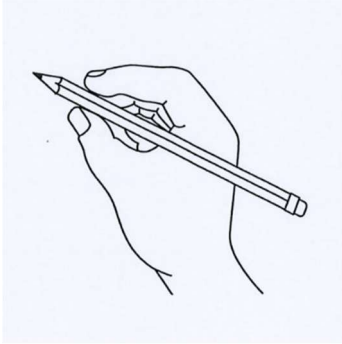
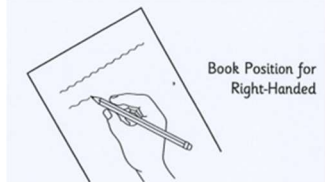
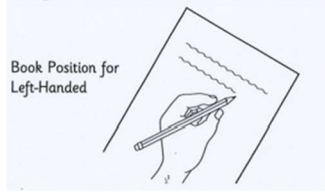
Developing fluency

As the children progress into Key Stage 1 and then Key Stage 2, our aim is for pupils to achieve automaticity in handwriting. We teach handwriting as a specific skill in a clearly sequenced progression to support children's gradual acquisition of skills. Handwriting is taught daily and consistently throughout school to build accuracy, fluency, legibility and speed.

National Curriculum	
Year 1 Pupils should be taught to: • sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly • begin to form lower-case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place • form capital letters • form digits 0-9 • understand which letters belong to which handwriting 'families' (i.e. letters that are formed in the same ways) and to practise these.	Year 2 Pupils should be taught to: • form lower case letters of the correct size relative to one another • start using some of the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined • write capital letter and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower case letters • use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters.
Years 3 and 4 Pupils should be taught to: • use the diagonal strokes and horizontal strokes that are needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined • increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting (for example, by ensuring that the downstrokes of letters are parallel and equidistant; that lines of writing are spaced sufficiently so that the ascenders and descenders of letters do not touch).	Years 5 and 6 Pupils should be taught to: • write legibly, fluently and with increasing speed by: ▪ choosing which shape of a letter to use when given choices and deciding whether or not to join specific letters ▪ choosing the writing implement that is best suited for a task.

Handwriting lesson structure

Our daily handwriting lessons follow a consistent and precise structure throughout school. Children prepare for handwriting by carrying out a hand warm up followed by a check of posture, pencil grip, paper position and pressure on the pencil. Letter formation or letter joins are taught in small steps with teachers modelling throughout. Children then practise the skill in their books and then apply their learning in their written work across the curriculum.

Handwriting Lessons				
<u>1. Sitting Position</u> Teachers check that children are sitting in the correct writing position.	<u>2. Hand and Shoulder Warm Up</u> Children carry out a hand and shoulder warm up to prepare the muscles for writing.	<u>3. Good Pencil Grip</u> Teachers check that children are holding their pencil with the correct grip.	<u>4. Paper Position</u> Children tilt their page at an angle depending on their writing hand.	<u>4. Teacher Modelling</u> The teacher models the handwriting skill to the children for them to then practise independently.
			 	

The Stages of Handwriting at St Breock

At St Breock, we understand the importance of building strong foundations for writing before the children even pick up a pencil. We focus on activities that will build core strength for good postural control, gross motor skills for muscle strength, and fine motor skills for finger dexterity,

Pre-Writing Activities (Early Years Foundation Stage)

Meaningful Play



Developing Core Strength



Developing Gross Motor Control



Developing Fine Motor Control



The first stage of more formal handwriting is to learn how to form letters correctly. We teach letter formation using the correct handwriting families with both upper- and lower-case letters to help the children to recognise the correct shape, size and direction of each letter. At St Breock we teach handwriting using the Morrells Handwriting Programme. The programme uses a 'bounce technique' to teach letter formation. Children trace over letters, starting at the large starting dot. They follow the directional path indicated by the arrows, then 'bounce' back up, down or across the letters accordingly. They trace the letter, copy it and then practise it. The children begin by writing on unlined paper to focus on this initial skill and then when they are ready, they move on to using paper with a single, wide line.

Stage: Letter Formation 1
(Reception onwards)

First Letters

Cc Oo
Aa Gg
Qq Dd

Second Letters

Ii
Ll Tt
Kk Jj

Third Letters

Vv
Ww Uu
Yy Ff

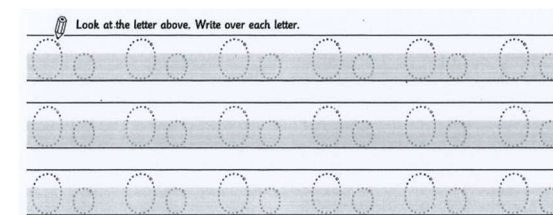
Fourth Letters

Rr
Nn Mm
Hh Pp

Fifth Letters

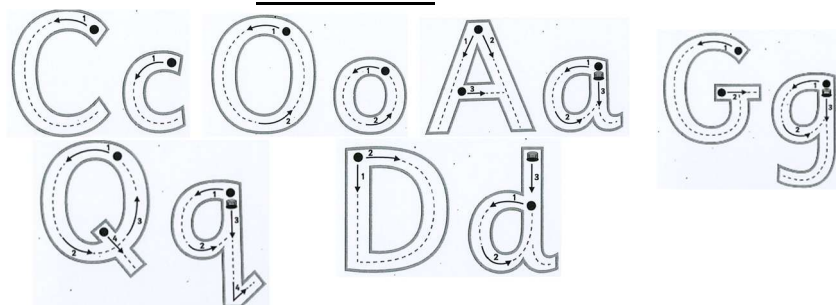
Bb
Ee Ss
Xx Zz

The next stage moves on to refining letter formation to practise the skill. Children trace over letters from the letter families, both upper and lower case. They move on to using paper with specific guidelines to support this.

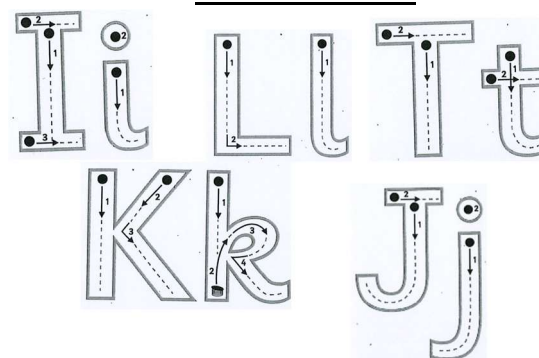


Stage: Letter Formation 2 (Year 1 onwards)

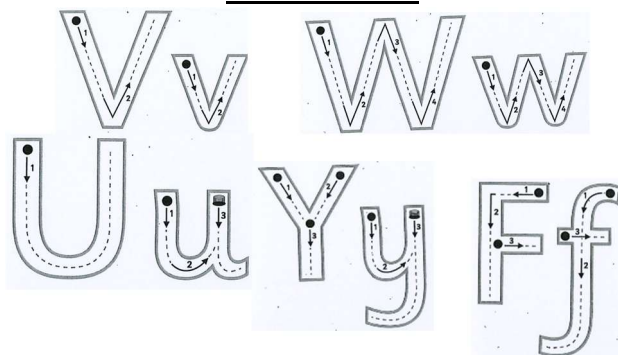
First Letters



Second Letters



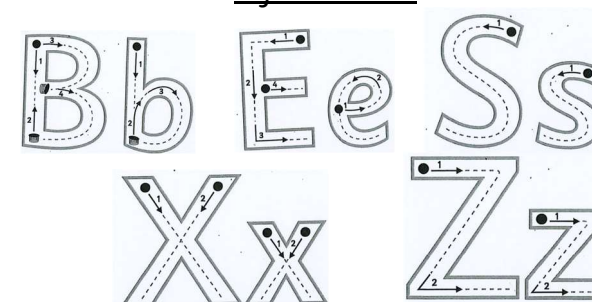
Third Letters



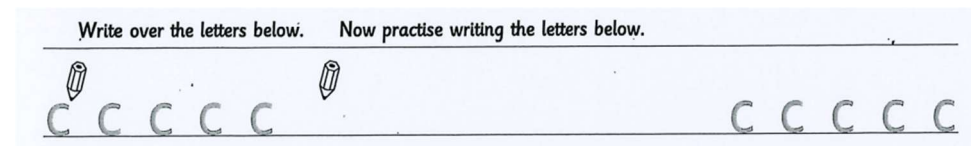
Fourth Letters



Fifth Letters

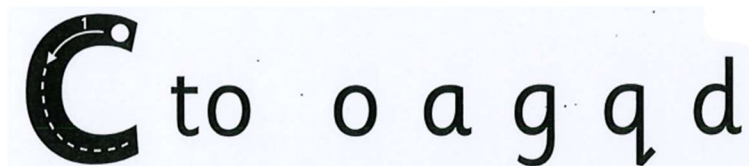


With more secure letter formation, the children are now ready to work on letter size and positioning on the line. They start by tracing over the letters from the letter families then copying them. They practise lower and upper case letters of the alphabet. They write on paper with a single line.

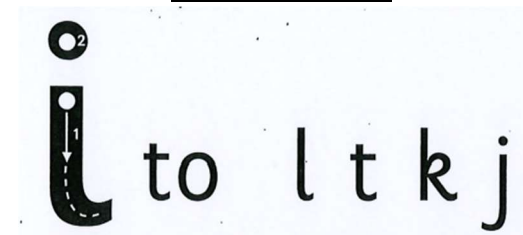


Stage: Letter Formation 3 (Year 2 onwards)

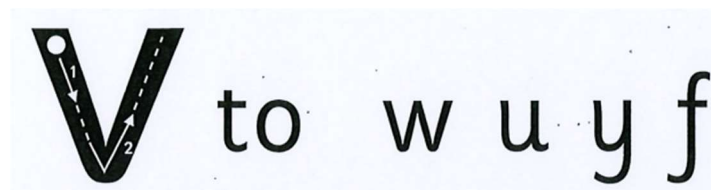
First Letters



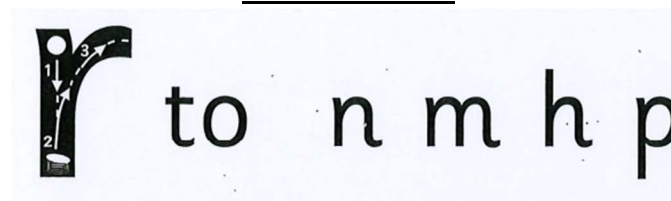
Second Letters



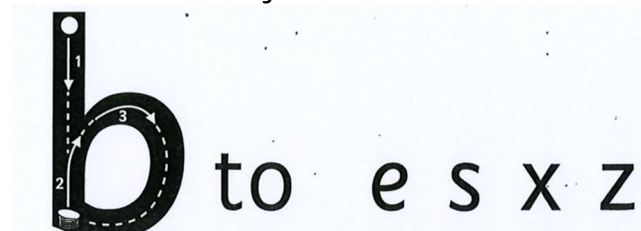
Third Letters



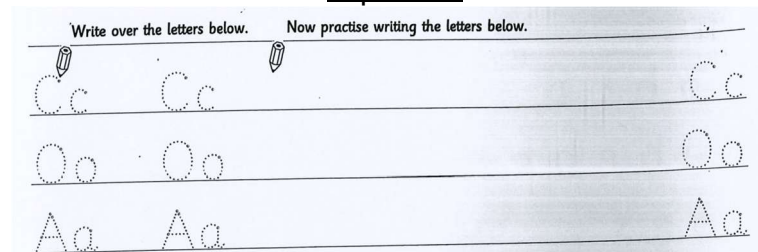
Fourth Letters



Fifth Letters



Alphabet



The final stage of letter formation is to write whole words. This will improve confidence and understanding of letter direction, size and spacing. The children trace, then write the words containing the letters from the letter families on a single line.

Stage: Letter Formation 4

(Year 2 onwards)

First Letters

cod cod	cod cod
dad dad	dad dad
dog dog	dog dog

Second Letters

ill ill	ill ill
kit kit	kit kit
lit lit	lit lit
tilt tilt	tilt tilt
kilt kilt	kilt kilt

Third Letters

way way	way way
tug tug	tug tug
cow cow	cow cow
volt volt	volt volt
flow flow	flow flow

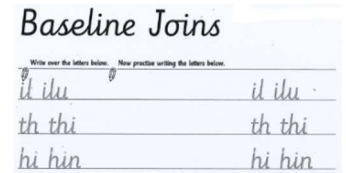
Fourth Letters

rim rim	rim rim
nip nip	nip nip
run run	run run
hop hop	hop hop
pan pan	pan pan
milk milk	milk milk

Fifth Letters

bee bee	bee bee
zoo zoo	zoo zoo
see see	see see
box box	box box
seat seat	seat seat
bean bean	bean bean

Once the children are secure with printing, they are ready to start joining letters. They learn the joins first.



Stage: Joining Letters 1 (Year 3 onwards)

First Joins – Baseline Joins

il th
hi lu
in mu

Second Joins – Round Joins

cc ca
ad as
sc da

Third Joins – Top Joins

oo oc
ol re
wa os

They then progress on to practising these joins in words.

Stage: Joining Letters 2 (Year 3 onwards)

Baseline Joins

Write over the words below. Now practise writing the words below.

sit sit sit
tint tint tint
title title title
tune tune tune
limit limit limit

Round Joins

Write over the words below. Now practise writing the words below.

tear tear tear
cage cage cage
add add add
hand hand hand
dear dear dear

Top Joins

Write over the words below. Now practise writing the words below.

too too too
old old old
out out out
was was was
once once once

The next stage comprises learning about break letters, where specific adjacent letters do not join, as well as writing words with capital letters, such as days of the week and months of the year as well as numbers.

Stage: Joining Letters 3 (Year 4 onwards)			
<u>Break Letters</u>	<u>Capital Letters</u>	<u>Days of the Week</u>	
Write over the words below. Now practise writing the words below. b bubble bubble	Write over the words below. Now practise writing the words below. Chantal Chantal	Write over the words below. Now practise writing the words below. Monday Monday	
<u>Months of the Year</u>		<u>Numbers</u>	
Write over the words below. Now practise writing the words below. July July		Write over the numbers below. Now practise writing the numbers below. 1 one 1 one	

In order to embed the joining skill, children then practise writing high frequency words, groups 1-10 as well as sentences containing these words.

Stage: Joining Letters 4 (Year 4 onwards)	
<u>High Frequency Words</u>	
Write over the words below and practise writing the word in the spaces below. a a an an as as at at if if in in	Write over the sentences below. There was a gigantic snail in my garden. Mum asked us to turn off the TV.

The final stage is to focus on fluency and automaticity. Children practise tracing then writing a variety of words such as plurals, verbs, adverbs and adjectives, then tracing paragraphs containing these words.

Stage: Joining Letters 5

(Year 5 onwards)

Write over the words below and practise writing the words in the spaces below.

comprehend	comprehend
captured	captured
glared	glared
glimpsed	glimpsed

Write over the words below. Now practise writing the words below.

illuminate	illuminate
observe	observe
obscure	obscure
plummeted	plummeted

Verbs

Write over the paragraphs below.

Dazzled and confused by the enormous selection of sweets in front of me, I thought for a moment. Row upon row of sweetie jars with hundreds of tiny pieces of sugar glared at me. Some shone deepest red while others were shades of lavender. I have never encountered such a vast choice of boiled sweets.