Handwriting at Meridian Angel

At Meridian Angel Primary School, we recognise that fluent, legible and confident handwriting is a vital skill for life. Handwriting not only supports children in recording their ideas clearly but also develops pride in presentation and a positive attitude towards writing. Our approach is consistent across the school and is designed to:

Build strong foundations in fine motor control and pencil grip.
Teach correct letter formation from the very beginning.
Progress systematically through letter families, capital letters, digits and joins.
Ensure that children develop a continuous cursive style that is clear, efficient and sustainable.

We follow a carefully sequenced programme that introduces handwriting in manageable steps, beginning in the Early Years with mark-making and letter formation linked to phonics, and progressing through Key Stage 1 and 2 to joined, fluent writing. Dictation and spelling activities are used regularly to give pupils meaningful opportunities to practise.

The progression map that follows outlines the order in which letters, joins, and handwriting skills are taught across the school. It serves as teacher guidance to ensure consistency and progression from EYFS to Year 6.

Teaching Sequence in Handwriting
Handwriting – Whole School Progression Map

These are the four-letter families and order that they are taught:
1.Ladder Letters: l, t, i, j, u, y
2.Curly Caterpillar Letters: c, o, a, d, g, q, s, f, e
3.One-Armed Robot Letters: r, b, n, h, m, k, p 4. Zigzag Monster Letters: v, w, x, z

- Digits 0-9
- Capital Letters A-Z - Capital letters do not join to lower case letters

- Ascenders: b d h k l t
- Descenders: g j p q y f

We teach continuous cursive with no break letters.

These are the four main joins and order that are taught:

(Join 1)
1.1 Diagonal joins to letters without ascenders e.g. ai, ar, un, am, ear, aw, ir, hu, ti, ki, du, up, ag, fu.

1.2 Diagonal joins to letters with ascenders e.g. ab, ul, it, ib, if, ub, th, ck, ch, it, ft, fl.

(Join 2)
2.1 Horizontal joins to letters without ascenders e.g. ou, vi, wi, op, ow, ov, ri, ru, ve, we, re.

2.2 Horizontal joins to letters with ascenders e.g. ob, ol, wh, it, of, rt, rk.

*please note this is for teacher reference and not to be used as a teaching point or LO.

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2	NC
EYFS	Focus on mark making and developing fine motor skills through a range of activities, such as 'Dough Disco'	Teaching the correct seating position Pencil Grip	Tracing patterns Letter formation taught alongside		phonics daily using handwriting rhymes. Learn		to write name (copy) Ladder Letters: l, i, t, j, u, y

		j, u, y			
Curly Caterpillar Letters: c, a, o, d, g, q, e, s, f One Armed Robot Letters: r, b, n, h, m, k, p	Zig Zag Monster Letters: v, w, x, z Consolidation of letter formation of lower case letters Ladder Letters: l, i, t,	Curly Caterpillar Letters: c, a, o, d, g, q, e, s,f One Armed	Robot Letters: r, b, n, h, m, k, p Zig Zag Monster Letters: v, w, x, z 40-60 months:	Gives meaning to marks they make as they draw, write and paint. Begins to break the flow of speech into words. Continues a rhyming string.	Hears and says the initial sound in words. Can segment the sounds in simple words and blend them together. Links sounds to letters, naming

	Ladder letters: l, i, t, j, u,y L,I,T,J,U,Y Curly caterpillar letters: c, a, o, d, g, q, e, s, f C,A,O,D,G,Q,E,S, F One armed robot letters: r, b, n, h, m, k, p R,B,N,H,M,K,P Zig zag letters: v, w, x, z V,W,X,Z -form digits 0-9 Learn to write surname (copy) Digits 0-9 Write name independently using the correctly formed lower case letters with a capital at the beginning. Dictation lessons begin for appropriate groups.	**Integrate the teaching of capital letters alongside the lower case letters** Ladder letters: l, i, t, j, u,y L,I,T,J,U,Y Curly caterpillar letters: c, a, o, d, g, q, e, s, f C,A,O,D,G,Q,E,S, F One armed robot letters: r, b, n, h, m, k, p R,B,N,H,M,K,P Zig zag letters: v, w, x, z V,W,X,Z -form digits 0-9 Dictation Lessons for all groups.			meaning, representing some sounds correctly and in sequence. Writes own name and other things such as labels, captions. Attempts to write short sentences in meaningful contexts.

Year 1

Continue to teach and model correct letter formation during phonics lessons using LW rhymes

Handwriting Daily

Integrate the teaching of capital letters alongside the lower case letters

Continue teaching letter families and secure correct formation. Ensure all children understand starting points and finishing points.

-form digits 0-9

Learn to write surname independently

and sounding the letters of the alphabet.

Uses some clearly identifiable letters to communicate

Handwriting 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 similar ways) and to practise these

Autumn 1 Autumn 2 Spring 1 Spring 2 Summer 1 Summer 2 NC

Year 2

Handwriting Daily

Year 3

Handwriting x3 weekly

Recap letter formation and letter groups
lower case and CL (see year 1).
Only move on to joins when letter formation is secure.

(Join 1)

Teach the **1.1** join – diagonal join to letters without ascenders
(recap Capital Letters)

ai, am, an, ao, ar, au
C,A,O,D,G,Q,E,S, F

ca, ci, co, cu, ia, im, L,I,T,J,UY

in, io, ir, iu, ma, mi, mm,
R,B,N,H,M,K,P

mo, mu na, nd V,W,X,Z

ni, nn, no, np, nu , ua, ui, um, un, uo, ag, aj, dy, ig, ip, lp, mp, np, ug, up

Recap as needed

Recap the **1.1** and **2.1** joins (see Year 2)
Apply to words and dictated sentences.

(Join 1)

Recap the **1.1** join - diagonal join to letters without ascenders

ai, am, an, ao, ar, au
C,A,O,D,G,Q,E,S,F

ca, ci, co, cu, ia, im, L,I,T,U

in, io, ir, iu, ma, mi, mm,
R,B,N,M,H,K,P

mo, mu na, nc, nd V,W,X,Z

Focus on the **1.1** join but from a letter with an **ascender** to a letter without an ascender:

da, di, do, dy, ha, hi, ho, hu, ka, ki, ko, ku, la, li, lm, lo, lp, lu

Teach the **1.2** join - a diagonal join from a letter to a letter with an ascender.

ab, ah, ak, al, at, ch, ck, cl, ct, el, eb, eh, ek, et, ub, uh, uk, ul, ut, ph, pl, pt, sh, sk, sl, st, Ib, ih, ik, il, it, kl, ll, th, tt

Tricky join – **qu**

A horizontal join to the letter **'e'**
oe, re, ve, we, fe
Use a diagonal join to the letter **'c'** ac, lc, uc

A diagonal join to the letter **'s'**
as, cs, ds, hs, is, ks, ls, ms, ns, ts, us

Teach a diagonal join to the

letter **'e'** ae, ce, de, ee, he, ie, ke,

le, me, ne, ue

(Join 2)

Begin to Teach the **2.1** join – the horizontal join to letters without ascenders

oa, oc, oe, og, oi, oj, om, on, oo, or, os, ou, ov, ow, ox, oy, oz

ra, rg, ri, rm, rn, ro, rp, rr, rs, ru, va, vi, vo, vs, vu, wa, wi, wn, wo, ws, wu, wy

Teach the **2.2** join horizontal join to ascender ob, oh, ok, ol, ot, rt

Joining to and from the letter 'a'
oa, ad, as, ea, ua

Join from the letter 'p' pu, pa, pe, pi, pl, po, pr, ps

Join from the letter 'b' bu, ba, be, bi, bl, bo, br, bs

Joining to the letter 'y' ky, ly, ey, hy, ay, oy
Handwriting 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

Pupils should be taught to:
-use the diagonal 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]

Autumn 1 Autumn 2 Spring 1 Spring 2 Summer 1 Summer 2 NC

Year 4-6

Handwriting x3 weekly

Recap the letter families (Ladders, curly caterpillars, one-armed robots, zig zags)

Recap the joins
1.1 Diagonal joins to letters without ascenders
ai, am, an, ao, ar, au ca, ci, co, cu, ia, im, in, io, ir, iu, ma, mi, mm,

needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined -- write capital letters 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.

mo, mu na, nd, ne, ni, nn, no, np, nu, ua, ui, um, un, uo, ag

1.2 Diagonal joins to letters with ascenders
ab, ah, ak, al, at, el, ch

2.1 Horizontal joins to letters without ascenders
oa, oc, od, oe, og, oi, oj, om, on, oo, or, os, ou, ov, ow, ox, oy, oz

2.2 Horizontal joins to letters with ascenders
ob, oh, ok, ol, ot, rt, rl, rk, wh, wl, wk

1.1 Diagonal joins to letters without ascenders

aj, dy, ig, ip, lp, mp, np, ug, up da, di, do, du, dy, ha, he, hi, ho, hu, ka, ke, ki, ko, ku, la, le, li, lm, lo, lp, lu

1.2 Diagonal joins to letters with ascenders
ck, cl, ct, eb, eh, ek, el, et, Ib, ih, ik

2.1 Horizontal joins to letters without ascenders
ra, rg, ri, rm, rn, ro, rp, rr, rs, ru, va, vi, vo, vs, vu

2.2 Horizontal joins to letters with ascenders

ob, oh, ok, ol, ot, rt, rl, rk, wh, wl, wk

1.1 Diagonal joins to letters without ascenders
ac, ec, ic, lc, uc as, cs, ds, es, hs, is, ks, ls, ms, ns, ts, us, ce, de, ee, he, ie, ke, le, me, ne, ue

1.2 Diagonal joins to letters with ascenders
il, it, kl, ll, ph, pl, pt, sb, sh, sk, sl

2.1 Horizontal joins to letters without ascenders
wa, wi, wn, wo, ws, wu, wy, oe, re, ve, we

2.2 Horizontal joins to letters with ascenders
ob, oh, ok, ol, ot, rt, rl, rk, wh, wl, wk

Year 4
Pupils should be taught to: -use the diagonal 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]

Year 5/6
Handwriting and presentation 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

Rehearsal through spelling, dictation lessons and discreet handwriting sessions where necessary.