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| Rossmore SchoolHandwriting progression map |
| Teaching sequence in handwriting | Possible teaching sequence;Fine motor skills; hand and finger strengthSeating positionPencil grip (tripod grip)TracingPatternsTeacher modelingindependence | Letter formation is taught alongside daily phonics lessons using handwriting ‘stories’. The stories act as a prompt to remind children about starting position, direction and flow of the letter.Teachers will mention how starting ‘tall/high’ and going ‘under/below’ to teacher children early about ascenders and descenders. Here are the letter families;Family 1: c o a g d q (plus e)Family 2: i u y l t j (plus s)Family 3: r n m h b p (plus k)Family 4: v w x z (plus f)Ascenders: b d h k l tDescenders: g j p q y fCapital Letters A-Z Capital letters do not join to lower case letters | These are the four main joins and order that are taught: 1. Diagonal joins to letters without ascenders e.g. ai, ar, un, am, ear, aw, ir, hu, ti, ki, du, up, ag, fe, fu. 2. Diagonal joins to letters with ascenders e.g. ab, ul, it, ib, if, ub, th, ck, ch, it, ft, fl. 3. Horizontal joins to letters without ascenders e.g. ou, vi, wi, op, ow, ov, ri, ru, ve, we, re. 4. Horizontal joins to letters with ascenders e.g. ob, ol, wh, it, of, rt, rk.Break letters without joins;b, p, g, q, y, j, z |
| Year | Autumn | Spring | Summer |
| 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) | \*Revising letter formation can be taught alongside phonics or as additional handwriting group work\*Letter family 1: c o a g d q (plus e) 3 weeksFamily 2: i u y l t j (plus s) 2 weeksFamily 3: r n m h b p (plus k) 2 weeksWrite name independently using the correctly formed lower case letters with a capital at the beginning | Consolidation of letter formation of lower case lettersFamily 3: r n m h b p (plus k) 2 weeksFamily 4: v w x z (plus f) 2 weeksAscenders: b d h k l t 2 weeksDescenders: g j p q y f 2 weeksUse and apply in writing activities |
| Year 1**Continue to teach and model correct letter formation during phonics lessons using handwriting rhymes throughout year 1.** | Integrate the teaching of capital letters alongside thelower case lettersLetter family 1: c o a g d q (plus e) 2 weeksC,O,A, G, D,Q, EFamily 2: i u y l t j (plus s) 2 weeksI, U, Y, L, T, JFamily 3: r n m h b p (plus k) 2 weeksR, N, M, H, B, PFamily 4: v w x z (plus f) 2 weeksV, W, X, Z | Quick recap of capital letters.Teach the first join – diagonal join to letters without ascendersLearn to write Surname (copy)ai, am, an, ao, ar, auC,A,O,D,G,Q,E,S (3 weeks)ca, ci, co, cu, ia, im,L,I,T,U (3weeks)in, io, ir,iu, ma, mi, mmR,B,N,M,K,P (3 weeks)F,J,Y (1 week) | Learn to write surname independentlyContinue with learning the first joinmo, mu na, nc, ndV,W,X,Z (2 weeks)ne, ni, nn, no, np, nu (2 weeks)ua, ui, um, un, uo, (2 weeks)ag, aj, dy, ig, ip, lp (2 weeks)mp, np, ug, up (2 weeks) |
| Year 2 | RevisionPractise the break letters b p g q y j zPractise capital lettersFocus on the first join but from a letter with an ascender to a letter without an ascenderda, di, do, du, dy, ha, he, hi, ho, hu, ka, ke, ki, ko,ku, la, le, li, lm, lo, lp, luA diagonal join to the letter ‘c’ ac, ec, ic, lc, uc | Recap the first join alongside new teachingA diagonal join to the letter ‘s’ as, cs, ds, es, hs, is, ks, ls, ms, ns, ts, usBegin to teach the second join – the horizontal joinoa, oc, od, oe, og, oi, oj, om, on, oo, or, os, ou, ov, ow, ox, oy, oz | Recap the first join alongside new teachingA diagonal join to the letter ‘e’ ae, ce, de, ee, he, ie, ke, le, me, ne, ueContinue with the second join – the horizontal joinra, rg, ri, rm, rn, ro, rp, rr, rs, ru, va, vi, vo, vs, vu, ve |
| Year 3 | Continue with the horizontal joinwa, wi, wn, wo, ws, wu, wyA horizontal join to the letter ‘e’oe, re, ve, we, feTeach diagonal join to a letter with an ascenderab, ah, ak, al, at, el, ch, ck, cl, ct, eb, eh, ek, el, et | Continue with a diagonal joinfrom a letter to a letter with an ascenderib, ih, ik, ill, it, idHorizontal join to ascenderot, ok, oh, ol, odJoining to the letter ‘y’ky, ly, ey, hy, ay, oy | Continue with a diagonal joinfrom a letter to a letter with an ascenderth, tt, ub, uh, uk, ul, ut \*diagonal joins\*ob, oh, ok, ol, ot, rt \*horizontal joins\*Revise joining to and from the letter aoa, ad, as, ea, ua |
| Year 4 | Revise previously taught joinsDiagonal joinsHorizontal joinsTeach horizontal joins to letters with ascendersot, ok, ol, od, obrt, rl, rk, rd, rbwh, wk, wt, wl | Further practise of the four handwriting joins• in ine• ut ute• ve vi• ok ohPractise combining all 4 joins when writing sentences. | Consolidation Recap on the 4 basic joins.Recap on specific letter joins to ensure children are writing in a fluent style.Supporting activities• copy words• copy sentences• copy poem |
| UKS2 | Revise all previously taught joins.Ensure letters are of consistent size and height.Pupils will focus on maintaining a consistent and fluent style. Pupils will practice maintaining legibility when writing at speed. Pupils will continue to improve handwriting through writing more sustained passages of writing, both copied and from their imagination. |
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