



Policy Document

Alkerden Church of England Academy

Handwriting Policy

September 2026

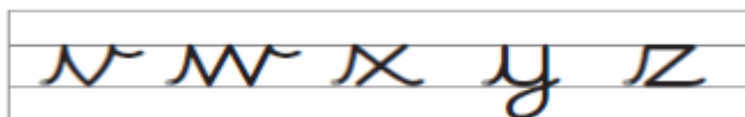
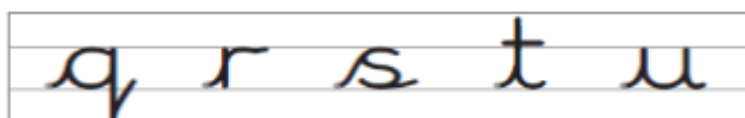
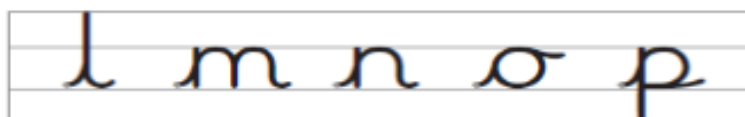
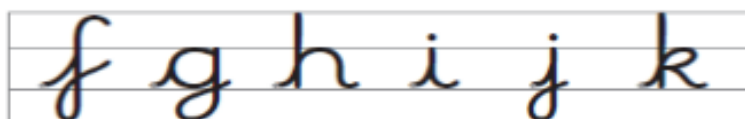
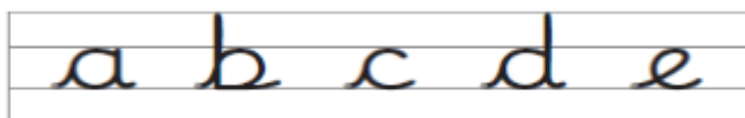
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Review Period:	Annually

At Alkerden C of E Academy Primary Phase, we use Letter-join's on-line handwriting resource and Lesson Planners as the basis of our handwriting policy as it covers all the requirements of the National Curriculum.

Handwriting is a basic skill that influences the quality of work throughout the curriculum. By the end of Key Stage 2 all pupils should have the ability to produce fluent, legible and, eventually, speedy joined-up handwriting, and to understand the different forms of handwriting used for different purposes.

Our Chosen Font

Cursive lowercase letters



Letter-join 

Intent:

Our intention is to make handwriting an automatic process that does not interfere with creative and mental thinking.

- To develop a neat, legible, speedy handwriting style using continuous cursive letters, which leads to producing letters and words automatically in independent writing.
- To establish and maintain high expectations for the presentation of written work.
- For learners to understand, by the end of Year 6, the importance of neat presentation and the need for different letterforms (cursive, printed or capital letters) to help communicate meaning clearly.

Expectations

All teaching staff are encouraged to model the printed or cursive style of handwriting chosen for each year group in our school in all their handwriting, whether on whiteboards, displays or in learner' books.

Consistency throughout the school

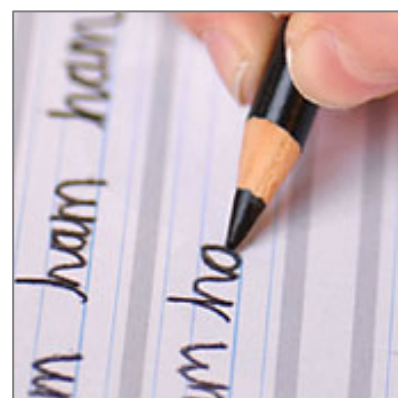
Learners should experience coherence and continuity in the learning and teaching of handwriting across all school years and be encouraged to take pride in the presentation of their work. Our objective is to help learners enjoy learning and developing their handwriting with a sense of achievement and pride.

Handwriting frequency

Handwriting is a cross-curricular task and will be taken into consideration during all lessons. Formal teaching of handwriting will be carried out regularly and systematically to ensure Key Stage targets are met.

Pens and pencils

Learners will start handwriting using a soft pencil. When fine motor skills have been established a handwriting pen may be used. More competent Learners can use a ballpoint pen.



Inclusion

For Learners who experience handwriting difficulties due to fine motor development, including those who are left-handed and those with special educational needs, the appropriate additional support will be put into place. Letter-join's Lesson Planners all include differentiation activities for extra practice/challenge.

Implementation:

Early Years

For our youngest learner, we teach short handwriting lessons on a daily basis, which will include the following:

- enhancing gross motor skills such as air-writing, pattern-making and physical activities
- exercises to develop fine motor skills such as mark-making on paper, whiteboards, sensory trays, iPads, tablets, etc.
- becoming familiar with letter shapes, their sounds, formation and vocabulary
- correct sitting position and pencil grip for handwriting



Lesson Planners

Module 1 Print: Early Years teaches handwriting using the printed method as part of our Little Wandle Phonics lesson as well as discrete handwriting lessons. It starts with fine and gross motor skills warm-up exercises, correct sitting position and tripod pencil grip.



It is divided into three sections covering:

- pre-writing patterns
- easy letters and words
- harder letters and words

At the end of this module, learners should be able to recognise and form all the printed, lowercase letters of the alphabet.

As learners become confident with correct printed letter formation, we begin to teach pre-cursive patterns and cursive (usually in the Summer terms) lower case letters. It starts with fine and gross motor skills warm-up exercises, correct sitting position and tripod pencil grip.

The first module is divided into three sections covering:

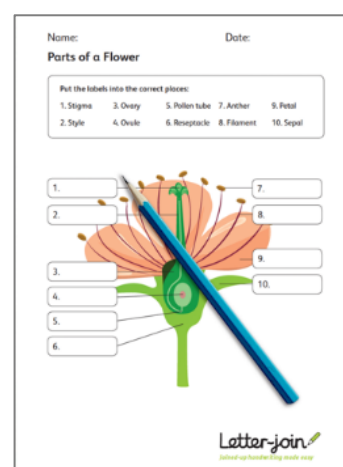
- pre-cursive patterns
- easy letters and words
- harder letters and words

At the end of this module, learners should be able to recognise and form all the cursive, lowercase letters of the alphabet and write words using the correct joining techniques.

Key Stage 1: Years 1 and 2

Teaching progresses from five short, to three longer lessons per week:

- continuing with gross and fine motor skills exercises
- strengthening handwriting, learning and practice
- numerals, capitals and printed letters; where and when to use, learning and practice
- KS1 SATs SPaG exercise



Module 2 Lesson Planners – Year 1

Module 2 Cursive contains lessons for teaching how to write capital letters, printed letters, numbers and symbols, whilst reinforcing cursive handwriting using Letter-join's on-line and printed resources. It is divided into three sections covering:

- warm-ups, letter families and capital letters
- printed letters
- numbers and symbols

On finishing this module, children should be confident in writing all the capital and printed letters, numbers and symbols and start to become familiar with their use.

Module 3 Lesson Planners – Year 2

be developing the fluency and speed of their writing.

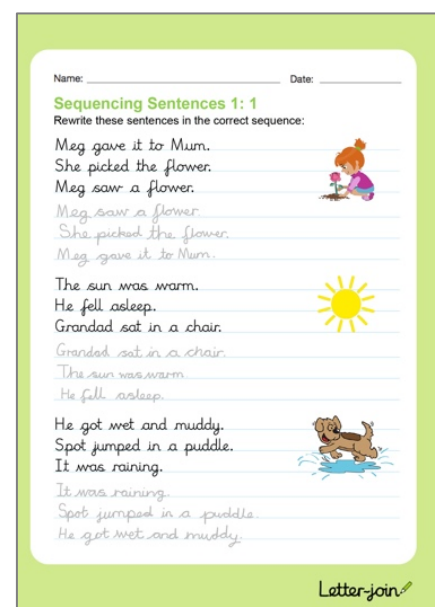
Module 3 Cursive: Year 2 includes lessons to improve letter formation and orientation of letters through regular practice and to support spelling, grammar and punctuation in readiness for KS1 SATs. The sections in this module cover:

- letter families
- high frequency words
- joining techniques
- sequencing sentences
- dictation exercises
- times table facts
- SPaG practice for KS1 SATs

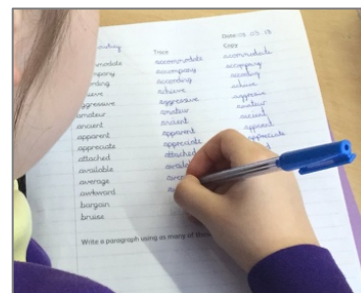
With the regular handwriting practice throughout this module, children should now be developing the fluency and speed of their writing.

Lower Key Stage 2: Years 3 and 4

Handwriting lessons will continue twice a week in Lower Key Stage 2.



Lesson Planner Module 4 for Year 3 is targeted at learners in lower KS2 where learners should be using a cursive style throughout their independent writing in all subjects, helping to refine their handwriting in line with the requirements of each lesson. This module covers topics such as dictation, double letters, number vocabulary, palindromes, tongue twisters, MFL (Spanish), onomatopoeia, simile and statutory spellings.



Completion of Module 4 should ensure improvement in the legibility, consistency and quality of the learner's handwriting through a variety of resources which link handwriting to other areas of the curriculum.



Lesson Planner Module 5 for Year 4 focuses on using handwriting practice to support other subjects in the curriculum and, at the same time, builds on fluency and consistency. This module aims to promote meaningful links with other subjects such as English, maths, science, geography, French and Spanish.

Making such links enables learners to apply the skills they are learning in context and also provides depth to the curriculum.

Learners will continue to build on producing fluent, consistent and legible handwriting through the regular practice offered in this module's lessons.

On concluding this module, learners will have practised applying size-appropriate handwriting to all areas of the curriculum whilst maintaining fluency and legibility.

EXAMPLE

Word of the Week: precarious

Write this week's word six times:

precarious precarious precarious
precarious precarious precarious

Use a dictionary to find the definition of this week's word:

If something is precarious, it is not safe and likely to fall off or fall over.

Write some synonyms of this week's word:

insecure risky hazardous
treacherous unsafe dangerous

Write some antonyms of this week's word:

safe fixed strong
secure protected stable

Write a sentence using this week's word:

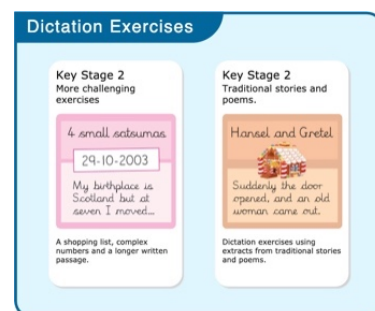
The cat was in a precarious position in the tree.
Beware: this cliff edge is precarious.
Take care on that precarious, old ladder.
The stranded climber was in a precarious situation.

Letter-join

Upper Key Stage 2: Years 5 and 6

More advanced handwriting techniques will be taught during two weekly lessons:

- reinforcing cursive handwriting across the curriculum
- form-filling/labelling using printed and capital letters
- dictation exercises promoting quick note-taking and speedy handwriting writing skills
- KS2 SATs SPaG practice



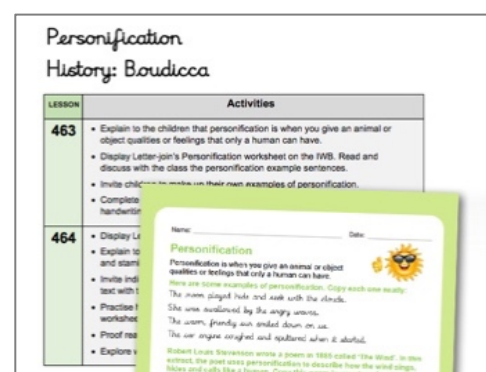
Lesson Planner Module 6 for Year 5 continues to build on combining fluent handwriting with other subjects across the curriculum.

In this module, learners will have plenty of opportunity to develop the stamina and skills to write at length, with accurate spelling and punctuation. With Letter-join's wide range of resources they will be able to work towards producing consistently neat and well-presented handwriting in all curriculum subjects.



On completing this module, learners should be producing cursive writing automatically, enabling them to focus on the content of their work rather than the process of writing.

Lesson Planner Module 7 Year 6 presents learners with a range of tasks where they have to decide on an appropriate style of handwriting. Promoting speedy, fluent writing continues to be a strong feature. Challenging dictation exercises will refine pupils' revising and checking skills as well as boosting their handwriting speed, stamina and fluency. A range of curriculum-based worksheets will give pupils the opportunity to practise writing at length.



Module 7 also contains a series of worksheets to aid KS2 SATs SPaG revision. They are designed to support year 6 pupils in meeting expected standards for spelling, punctuation and grammar, with lots of SPaG preparation and plenty of handwriting practice.

By the end of this module, learners should be able to adapt their handwriting for a range of tasks and purposes and to create different effects. They should be clear about what standard of handwriting is appropriate for a particular task, for example, quick notes, a final handwritten version, an un-joined style or capital letters. All of these writing styles are covered in this module.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Spelling 1

Words ending in ...cious and ...tious

Look	Trace	Copy	Cover and write
delicious	delicious	delicious	delicious
precious	precious	precious	precious
conscious	conscious	conscious	conscious
spacious	spacious	spacious	spacious
vicious	vicious	vicious	vicious
suspicious	suspicious	suspicious	suspicious
infectious	infectious	infectious	infectious
cautious	cautious	cautious	cautious
ambitious	ambitious	ambitious	ambitious
sumptuous	sumptuous	sumptuous	sumptuous
superstitious	superstitious	superstitious	superstitious
nutritious	nutritious	nutritious	nutritious

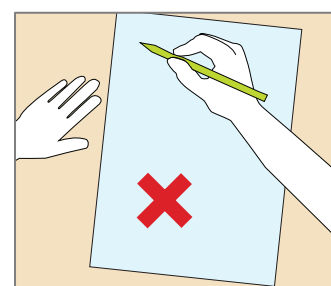
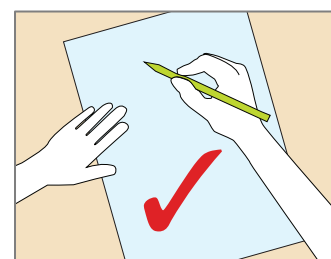
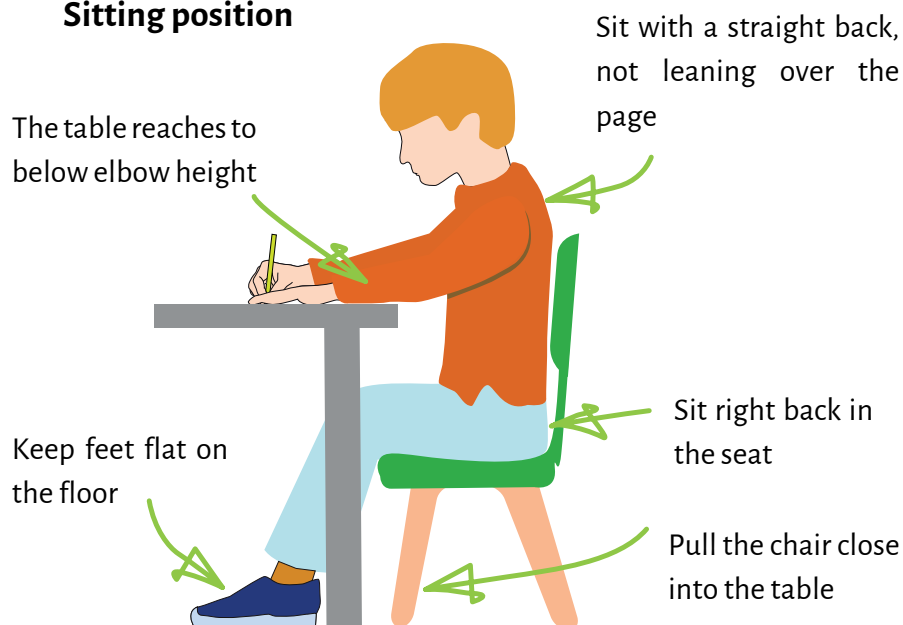
Challenge Write a paragraph using as many of these words as possible.

I was suspicious about the nutritious meal being healthy because it was really sumptuous. I was cautious because it was so delicious! The chef was very precious about the recipe and got quite vicious when I ask for the ingredients. The kitchen was really spacious and I was conscious of the ambitious staff who were so superstitious about their menu. They would burst into infectious laughter all the time.

Correct posture and pencil grip for handwriting

Pupils should be taught to sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly.

Sitting position

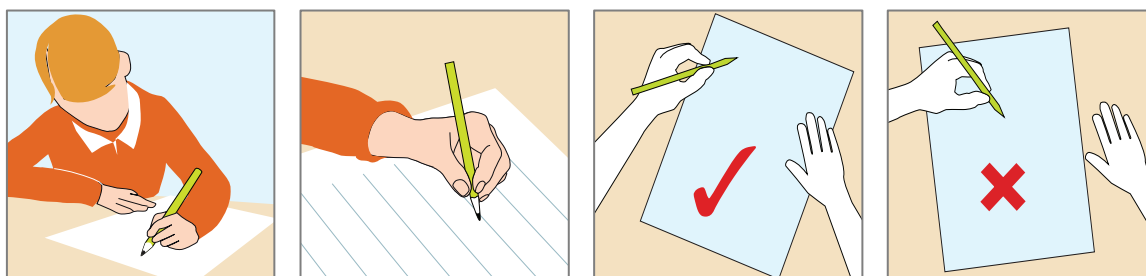


Paper position for right-handed children.

Left-handed learners

Left-handed learners may find it difficult to follow the movements of right-handed teachers as they model letter formation (and vice versa). Teachers should demonstrate to left-handers on an individual or group basis.

- Left-handed learners should sit to the left of a right-handed learner so that they are not competing for space.
- They should position the paper/book to their left side and slanted, as shown.
- Pencils should not be held too close to the point as this can interrupt learners' line of vision.
- Extra practice with left-to-right exercises may be necessary before learners write left-to-right automatically.



Paper position for left-handed children.

The Tripod Pencil Grip

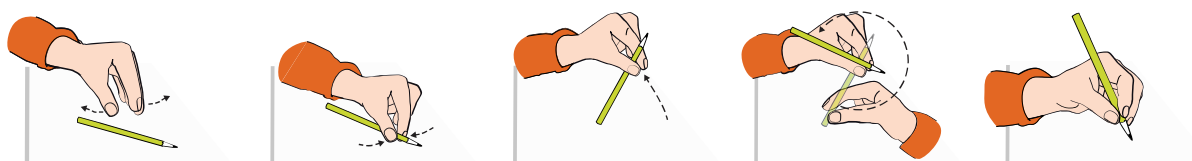
Both right and left handed learners should be encouraged to use the tripod grip which allows the pen/pencil to be held securely whilst allowing controlled movements of the pen/pencil nib. We use the Tripod Grip Rhyme:

Right-handed pencil grip



Point away the pencil, Pinch it near the tip, Lift it off the table, Spin it round... and grip.

Left-handed pencil grip



Point away the pencil, Pinch it near the tip, Lift it off the table, Spin it round... and grip.