



Asquith Primary School Handwriting Policy

September 2025

Our aim is to teach children correct letter formation, joining skills and good handwriting habits, so that they can write fluently and legibly, and begin to develop their own personal and distinctive style.

Expectations

- Letters are taught in formation families following the agreed school policy.(appendix 1)
- All adults within school will model appropriate handwriting for their year group.
- Staff will address incorrect letter formation as part of marking and feedback.
- Previously taught formations will be regularly reviewed.
- Handwriting will be taught in a minimum two-week block at the start of the year for years 2 - 6 to review letter families.
- Handwriting will minimally be taught three times a week throughout the rest of the year.

Letter Formation

- Children will be taught to form lower case letters using our updated rhymes linked to Read Write Inc. (appendix 2)
- Once children are able to form lower case letters correctly, from Spring term in year 2, children will be taught to join in a pre-cursive style in preparation for joining. (appendix 3)
- Children will be taught to form joined letters with a lead in and out.
- Children will then be taught diagonal and horizontal joins using our agreed join formation. (appendix 6)
- Letters x and z will not be joined
- Capital letters will not be joined

Foundation 2

- Children will experience a range of activities that will strengthen their gross motor and fine motor control.
- Children will be taught to use a pencil and hold it effectively to form recognisable letters.
- In the autumn term, children will be taught how to form letters correctly using our updated Read Write Inc rhymes during daily phonics lessons. (See appendix 1)
- In spring, children will begin writing on lines.
- In spring and summer, children will be taught that the formation of several letters are similar - letter families.

Year 1

- Children will be taught to sit correctly at a table.
- Children will be taught how to form letters correctly in formation in families and using our rhymes. (appendix 2)
- Children will be taught how to form capital letters and numbers correctly.
- Capital letters will be taught along side lower case letters. 'It makes an 'a' sound, but its name is A.'

Year 2

- Children will continue to be taught how to write upper and lower-case letters of the correct size and orientation.
- In the spring term, children that **are ready** will be taught pre-cursive letters using a lead in and a lead out.
- In the Spring and Summer term, children that **are ready** will be taught how to join letters together following our agreed join formation. (appendix 6)
- In Summer, children that are ready, will join their handwriting in all subject areas.
- Children will be taught which letters cannot be joined – x and z

Year 3 and 4

- Children will continue to be taught joins using our agreed join formation. (appendix 6)
- Children will use ascenders and descenders in the correct place.
- They will begin to develop their writing with speed and stamina.

Year 5 and 6

- Children will continue to be taught our agreed join formations. (appendix 6)
- They will write with consistent size and letter spacing.
- Children will develop a cursive, legible, accurate style.
- They will begin to develop their own individual style.

Formation Families (appendix 1)

Around letters - c a o d g q

Curly around letters - e f s

Down letters - l t k i j

Down and up letters r n m h b p

Down and under letters - u y

Zig zag letters - v w z x

Updated Read Write Inc. Rhymes (appendix 1)

Around Letters

c - Curl **around** the caterpillar.

a - **Around** the apple, down the leaf.

o - All **around** the orange.

d - **Around** the dinosaur's back, up his neck and down to his feet.

g - **Around** the girls face, down her hair and give her a curl.

q - **Around** the queen's head, up to her crown, down her hair and curl.

Curly Around Letters

e - Slice into the egg, **around** the top, then under the egg.

f - **Around** the flowers, down the stem and draw the leaves.

s - **Around** his head and slide around the snake

Down Letters

l - **Down** the long leg.

t - **Down** the tower, across the tower.

k - **Down** the kangaroo's body, add his tail and leg.

i - **Down** the insect's body, dot for the head.

j - **Down** his body, curl and dot.

Down and Up Letters

r - **Down** the robot's back, **back up** and curl.

n - **Down** Nobby, **back up** and over the net.

m - **Down** Maisie, **back up** over the mountain, mountain.

h - **Down** the horse's head to the hooves and **back up** over its back.

b - **Down** the laces, **back up** over the toe and touch the heel.

p - **Down** the plait, **back up** and over the pirates face.

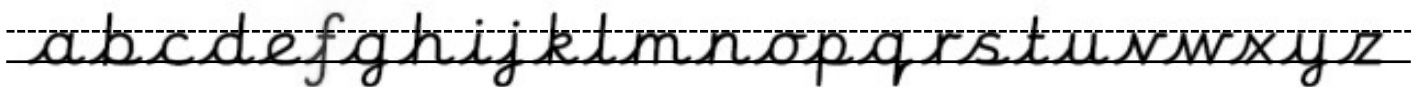
Down and Under Letters

u - **Down and under** the umbrella, up to the top and down to the puddle.
y - Down and under the horns, and under the yak's head.

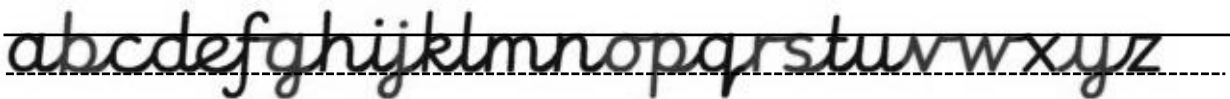
Zig zag Letters

v - Down a wing, up a wing.
w - Down, up, down, up the worm.
z - Zig-zag-zig, down the zip.
x - Cross down the arm and leg, and cross the other way.

Pre-Cursive (appendix 3)

A row of lowercase letters from a to z in a pre-cursive script, written on three horizontal lines (top, middle dashed, bottom). The letters are connected in a continuous, flowing manner.

Joining Letter Formation (appendix 4)

A row of lowercase letters from a to z showing the joining strokes. Each letter is formed individually with arrows indicating the direction of the pen strokes, written on three horizontal lines.

Capital Letters (appendix 5)

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T
U V W X Y Z

Agreed Join Formations (appendix 6)

Diagonal join without ascender

Use for joining:

a c d e l k l m n t u

to:

e l j m n p r u v w x y z

- Write the first letter carefully.
- Make the arm sweep up in a gentle curve.
- Make sure the down stroke of the second letter is straight.

See examples:

ai ae aj am ar ci ce cu cy di dr dy de
ee ei em er he hu hi hy ie ir ip iw iy
ke ki kn ky le lm ln ly me mi mm mu
ne ni nu ny te ti ty tw ui ue up
uw uy

Diagonal join to ascender

Use for joining:

a e i d h k l m n t u c

to:

b h k l t

- Write the first letter carefully.
- Make the arm sweep up in a gentle curve.
- Continue the line to the top of the second letter.

Possible examples:

ab ah ak al at eb eh ek el et ib ih ik il it
ch mb th

Diagonal join to 'around' letter

Use for joining:

a c d e h i k l m n t u

to:

a d g c o q

- Write the first letter carefully.
- Make the arm sweep up in a gentle curve.
- Continue the arm join over the top of the second letter.
- Go back along the line to form the second letter

Possible examples:

ac ad ag cd cc co da dd dg do
ed ho ic ig ja jo ka ko la ld lo
ma mo na ta to

Horizontal join without ascender

Use for joining:

v w r f o

to:

i j m n p r u v w x y z e

- Write the first letter carefully.
- Make the horizontal line with a slight droop.
- Write the second letter carefully.

Possible examples:

vi vu wi wr wy we ri rr ry re
fi fr fn fu fy oi or ow ou oy

Horizontal join to ascender

Use for joining:

v w r f o

to:

b h k l t

- Write the first letter carefully.
- Make the horizontal join like a 'washing line' with a slight droop.
- Continue the line to the top of the second letter.

Possible examples:

wh wl rb rh rl fl ob oh ol ot

Horizontal join to 'around' letter

Use for joining:

v w r f o

to:

a d g c o q

- Write the first letter carefully.
- Make the horizontal join like a 'washing line' with a slight droop.
- Continue the join over the top of the second letter.
- Go back along the line to form the second letter

See examples:

na no wa wo ra ro rd rg fa fo

sa so sd sg