

Bawnmore Community

Infant School

Parents' guide to handwriting

*Helping your child develop a confident,
fluent handwriting style*



Handwriting at Bawnmore

At our school, we aim to create a language-rich environment where children are inspired to become authors and poets, with high-quality writing across a range of genres. Handwriting is a key part of this journey.

We believe that:

- Handwriting should be taught progressively and consistently across year groups.
- Children should develop a legible, joined handwriting style by the end of Key Stage 1.
- Good handwriting helps build confidence and pride in written work.



Handwriting begins through our phonics teaching using the Floppy's Phonics programme. As children learn each grapheme, they are taught how to form the letter correctly with a clear starting point, direction and end point. Handwriting is closely linked to phonics from the very beginning, so that children develop automaticity in writing the letters and sounds they are learning to read, consolidating their understanding of the different grapho-phonetic correspondences.

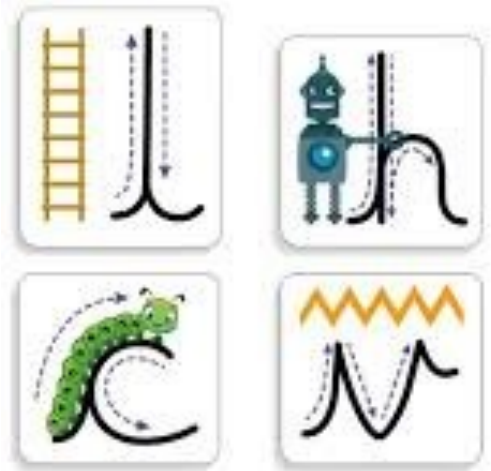
In Reception and Year 1, children have daily handwriting sessions in small groups and as a whole class, with adults modelling and guiding letter formation in line with the programme.



Letter-join

We introduce Letter-Join from Reception onwards, beginning with a strong focus on developing children's fine motor skills. Children practise different patterns and shapes to build up pencil control and grip. These early activities are taught through whole-class and small group sessions using a range of tools and textures: writing in sand, shaving foam, chalk, on whiteboards, with crayons and pencils, and using our interactive whiteboard. Children enjoy exploring mark making in varied and engaging ways as they build the strength and control they need to write fluently.

From Year 1 onwards, children learn pre-cursive handwriting using the Letter-Join scheme. Each letter is taught with a clear entry and exit stroke. In Year 2 and beyond, children continue to develop their handwriting fluency, moving towards fully joined cursive writing. The scheme supports the development of consistent, legible handwriting, preparing children for the demands of written work across the curriculum. This scheme is consistent across the Bilton Community Federation, with the same cursive script taught in Year 2 continuing in Year 3 and beyond in Bilton Junior School.



Handwriting Teaching Threaded throughout Our Curriculum

We teach handwriting both discretely and within all areas of the curriculum. Discrete handwriting lessons take place regularly in all year groups, following the progression of the Floppy's Phonics and Letter-Join programmes. Alongside this, handwriting is woven through every aspect of the curriculum so that children have frequent, purposeful opportunities to write.

In the Early Years, opportunities for mark making and early writing are embedded throughout the learning environment, indoors and outdoors. As children progress through school, they continue to practise and refine their handwriting during English lessons, topic work and across all subjects.

Teachers model high-quality handwriting, and high standards of presentation are promoted in every lesson. We encourage children to take pride in their written work, valuing both content and how it is presented.

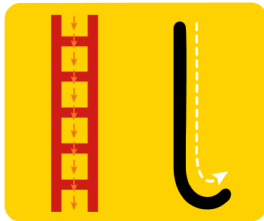
How Handwriting Supports Other Areas of Learning:

- **Phonics and Spelling:** Forming letters correctly helps children segment and blend more confidently.
- **Reading:** Writing neatly helps children to reread their own writing and builds self-editing skills.
- **Confidence:** A fluent handwriting style helps children express their ideas more freely in extended writing tasks.

Handwriting at Home

We know how important it is for children to have consistent practice and support with handwriting. At home, families can support their child by encouraging regular drawing, colouring, and writing activities. Simple things like writing shopping lists, cards, or signs for play activities all help develop fluency and confidence. The focus should always be on neatness, stamina and enjoyment, rather than speed.

Long Ladder Letters



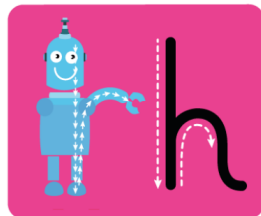
i l t u j y

Curly Caterpillar Letters



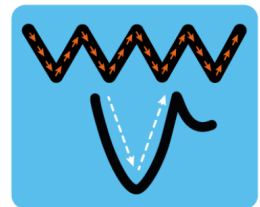
a d c o f e s g q

One-armed Robot Letters



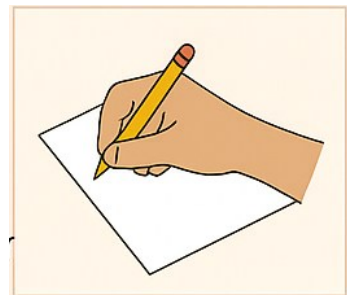
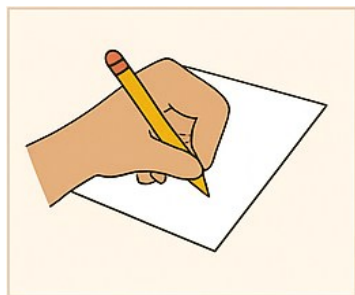
b h k m n p r

Zig-zag Letters



v w x z

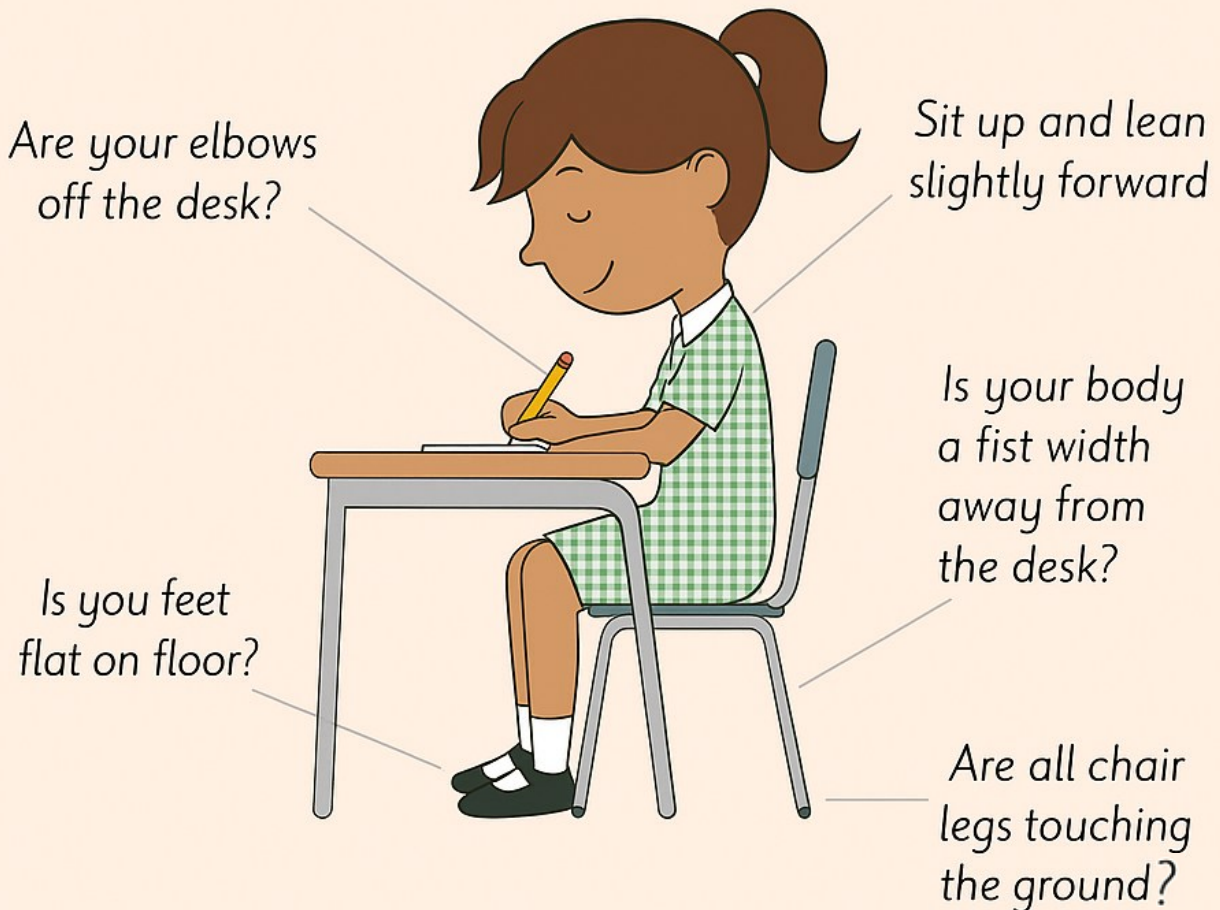
You can also support your child by reinforcing correct pencil grip and letter formation, using the right starting points.



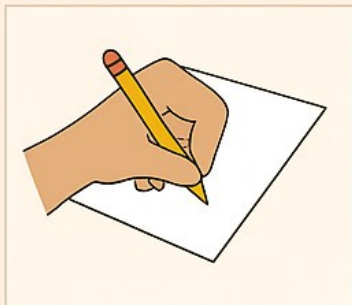
Posture when writing is also a very important part of developing good handwriting skills.

Handwriting Posture

Are you ready for handwriting? Relax!

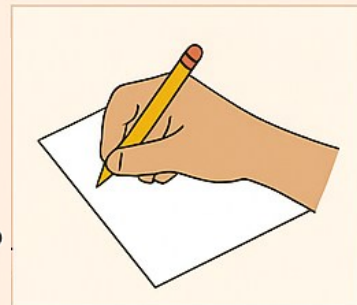


Left Handers



Is there a circle gap between your thumb and paper?

Right Handers



Is your paper tilted at a slight angle?

Supporting You with Handwriting at Home

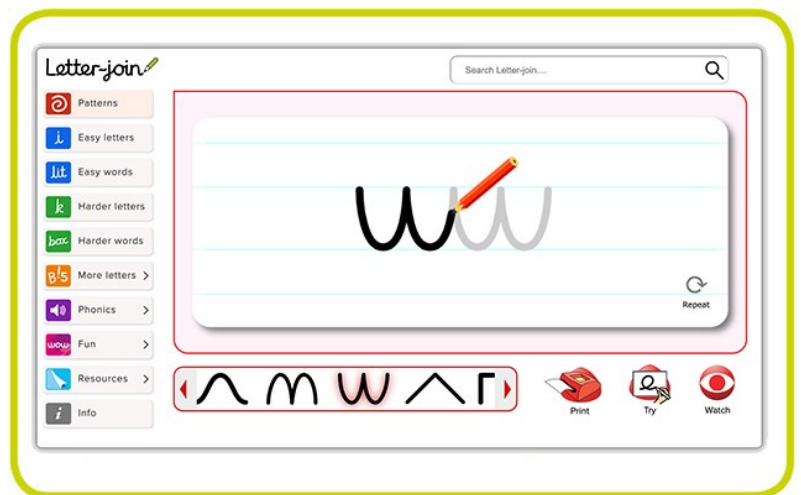
Here are some easy and effective ways you can support your child's handwriting at home:

Early Years and Year 1

- Encourage activities that build hand strength (playdough, Lego, cutting).
- Practise letter formation using large movements (chalk on the patio, finger tracing in sand).
- Play fine motor games like threading, tweezers, and pegboards.
- Model how to hold a pencil correctly and encourage a tripod grip.

Year 1 and Year 2

- Use the *LetterJoin* website at home (access is provided by school) to practise the same style used in school.
- Remind your child to sit up straight and use their non-writing hand to steady the paper.
- Praise neatness and effort, not just speed or accuracy.
- Focus on a few letters at a time and keep sessions short and positive.

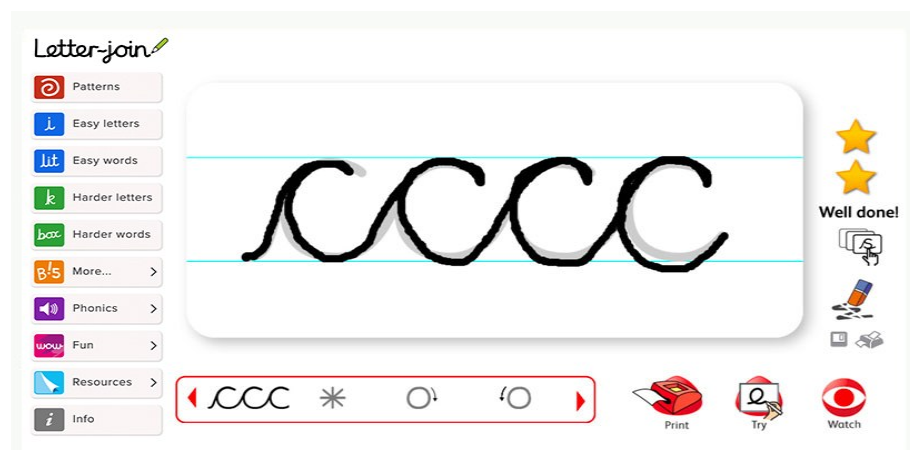


Supporting You with Handwriting at Home

We offer access to the Letter-Join platform so that families can practise the same patterns and letter formations children learn in school. The online resources include videos, games, and practice sheets for each handwriting stage. These activities are designed to be engaging and manageable for use at home.

Your child's class teacher can provide your login details and support you in using the resources effectively. If you would like guidance on helping your child with handwriting, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of the team—we are always happy to help.

Handwriting takes time to master. Every child develops at their own pace, and we aim to make handwriting an enjoyable, achievable part of learning. If you have any concerns about your child's handwriting, please speak to their class teacher.



Common Questions

What if my child finds handwriting difficult?

Every child develops at their own pace. We provide additional support through small-group fine motor work or handwriting intervention. Speak to your child's teacher if you're concerned.

When should my child start joining their writing?

We begin teaching pre-cursive strokes in Year 1 and introduce joins in Year 2. The main focus is on fluency and legibility before speed or style.

My child is left-handed – will this affect their handwriting?

Left-handed children may need additional modelling and support. We encourage them to tilt the paper to the right and sit on the left of right-handed peers. Letter-Join includes left-handed animations.

