



Good handwriting is critical to children's writing progress. It is essential that handwriting is practised until it is fluent and effortless so that the children can put all their effort into thinking about *what* they are writing.

Handwriting is built into the Unlocking Letters and Sounds digital lessons but it is essential that handwriting is also taught discretely in a progressive sequence to support children to meet the National Curriculum requirements. We recommend regular 10-minute handwriting lessons timetabled across the week. Children need to practise handwriting under the guidance of a teacher so that they do not develop habits or embed misconceptions that are difficult to correct later.

Unlocking Handwriting Progression

Unlocking Handwriting is a whole school handwriting programme. The progression used in Unlocking Handwriting follows the National Curriculum progression, with some additional content included based upon a wealth of experience of teaching handwriting in schools, feedback from schools seeking a comprehensive, progressive handwriting programme and updated guidance (including requirements from the National Curriculum).

The progression is structured broadly in units which are broken down into multiple sessions, offering a clear focus for each discrete handwriting lesson. Similar to the structure of Unlocking Letters and Sounds, Unlocking Handwriting provides 'Mastery' units for children to embed and secure the knowledge they have previously learnt. The programme also provides frequent opportunities for children to revisit previous learning and embed this before further refining their handwriting skills.

The progression is organised as follows:

Year group	Unit	Number of lessons	Focus
Pre-school	1	ongoing	Developing Gross and Fine Motor Skills
	2	ongoing	Pre-Writing Skills
Reception	1	ongoing	Developing Gross and Fine Motor Skills Mastery
	2	ongoing	Establishing the Correct Pencil Grip and Writing Position
	3	6	Pre-Writing Skills Mastery
	4	14	Lowercase Letter Formation
	5	13	Forming Letter Families
	6	ongoing	Name Writing
	7	6	Number Formation
Year 1	1	ongoing	Establishing the Correct Pencil Grip and Writing Position Mastery
	2	ongoing	Name Writing mastery
	3	6	Number Formation Mastery
	4	14	Lowercase Letter Formation Mastery



	5	14	Uppercase Letter Formation
	6	12	Forming Letter Families Mastery
	7	12	Uppercase Letter Formation Mastery
	8	8	Form Lowercase Letters of the Correct Size Relative to One Another
Year 2	1	4	Revisit Number Formation
	2	6	Revisit Lowercase Letter Formation
	3	6	Revisit Uppercase Letter Formation
	4	14	Cursive Letter Formation
	5	16	Letter Joins
	6	16	Letter Joins Mastery
	7	3	Form Lowercase Letters of the Correct Size Relative to One Another Mastery
	8	5	Uppercase Letters and Numbers Correctly Sized in Relation to One Another
	9	3	Spacing Within and Between Words Which Reflects the Size of the Letters
Year 3	1	3	Revisit Number Formation
	2	6	Revisit Uppercase Letter Formation
	3	8	Cursive Letter Formation Mastery
	4	16	Revisit Letter Joins
	5	5	Revisit Forming Lowercase Letters of the Correct Size Relative to One Another Mastery (<i>including Y3&4 NC statutory spelling list</i>)
	6	ongoing	Uppercase Letters and Numbers Correctly Sized in Relation to One Another Mastery
	7	4	Spacing Within and Between Words Which Reflects the Size of the Letters Mastery (<i>including correctly formed Y3&4 NC punctuation requirements</i>)
	8	6	Spacing Lines of Writing Sufficiently so Ascenders and Descenders Do Not Touch
	9	ongoing	Increase the Legibility, Consistency and Quality of Handwriting
Year 4	1	3	Revisit Number Formation
	2	6	Revisit Uppercase Letter Formation
	3	ongoing	Revisit Uppercase Letters and Numbers Correctly Sized in Relation to One Another
	4	6	Revisit Cursive Letter Formation
	5	9	Revisit Letter Joins



	6	5	Revisit Forming Lowercase Letters of the Correct Size Relative to One Another (<i>including Y3&4 NC statutory spelling list</i>)
	7	4	Revisit Spacing Within and Between Words Which Reflects the Size of the Letters (<i>including correctly formed Y3&4 NC punctuation requirements</i>)
	8	6	Spacing Lines of Writing Sufficiently so Ascenders and Descenders Do Not Touch Mastery
	9	ongoing	Increase the Legibility, Consistency and Quality of Handwriting Mastery
Year 5	1	3	Revisit Number Formation
	2	ongoing	Revisit Uppercase Letters and Numbers Correctly Sized in Relation to One Another
	3	9	Revisit Cursive Letter Formation and Letter Joins
	4	5	Revisit Spacing Within and Between Words Which Reflects the Size of the Letters (<i>including correctly formed Y5&6 NC punctuation requirements</i>)
	5	ongoing	Revisit Increasing the Legibility, Consistency and Quality of Handwriting
	6	10	Increase the Speed and Fluency of Handwriting (<i>including Y5&6 NC statutory spelling list</i>)
	7	15	Using an Unjoined Style for a Particular Purpose
Year 6	1	3	Revisit Number Formation
	2	ongoing	Revisit Uppercase Letters and Numbers Correctly Sized in Relation to One Another
	3	9	Revisit Cursive Letter Formation and Letter Joins
	4	6	Revisit Spacing Within and Between Words and Across Lines of Writing so Ascenders and Descenders Do Not Touch (<i>including correctly formed Y5&6 NC punctuation requirements</i>)
	5	ongoing	Revisit Increasing the Legibility, Consistency and Quality of Handwriting
	6	10	Increase the Speed and Fluency of Handwriting Mastery (<i>including Y5&6 NC statutory spelling list</i>)
	7	4	Using an Unjoined Style for a Particular Purpose Mastery