

# St Michael's Catholic Primary School



Handwriting progression of knowledge and  
skills

In black, are the year group specific skills to be taught and acquired by the end of that year group. In green are the skills that have been taught previously and must be secure prior to the teaching of the year group specific skills. Teachers must assess children to ascertain the most appropriate starting points at the start of each new school year/term.

Nursery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Begin to mark make.</li><li>• Use 'push pattern' movements.</li><li>• Use 'pull pattern' movements.</li><li>• Use 'vertical pattern' movements.</li><li>• Use 'diagonal pattern' movements.</li><li>• Use 'c pattern' movements.</li><li>• Draw patterns using the above movements</li></ul>
Reception
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Begin to sit correctly at the table for writing.</li><li>• Begin to hold a pencil comfortably and correctly.</li><li>• Begin to position the paper appropriately according to their dominant writing hand.</li><li>• Begin to apply the appropriate pressure with a pencil on to paper when writing.</li> <li>• Write recognisable letters, which are correctly formed.</li></ul>
Year 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sit correctly at the table for writing.</li><li>• Hold a pencil comfortably and correctly.</li><li>• Position the paper appropriately according to their dominant writing hand.</li><li>• Apply the appropriate pressure with a pencil on to paper when writing.</li> <li>• Use knowledge of handwriting 'families' to form letters correctly</li><li>• Form lower case letters in the correct direction starting and finishing in the right place.</li><li>• Form letters of an appropriate size in relation to each other</li><li>• Position letters correctly in relation to the base line.</li><li>• Leave clear spaces between words.</li><li>• Distinguish between lower case letters and capital letters.</li><li>• Form capital letters correctly.</li></ul>

## Year 2

- Sit correctly at the table for writing.
  - Hold a pencil comfortably and correctly.
  - Position the paper appropriately according to their dominant writing hand.
  - Apply the appropriate pressure with a pen/pencil on to paper when writing.
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- Form all lower-case letters and capital letters accurately and consistently, using knowledge of handwriting 'families'.
  - Consistently form lower case letters of the correct size in relation to each other
  - Appropriately size all lower-case letters relative to each other and the base lines.
  - Position all lower-case letters and capital letters correctly relative to the base line.
  - Consistently leave appropriate spaces between words

## Year 3

- Sit correctly at the table for writing.
  - Hold a pencil comfortably and correctly.
  - Position the paper appropriately according to their dominant writing hand.
  - Apply the appropriate pressure with a pen/pencil on to paper when writing.
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- Form all lower-case letters and capital letters accurately and consistently, using knowledge of handwriting 'families'.
  - Consistently form lower case letters of the correct size in relation to each other
  - Appropriately size all lower-case letters relative to each other and the base lines.
  - Position all lower-case letters and capital letters correctly relative to the base line.
  - Consistently leave appropriate spaces between words.
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- Use correct terminology to refer to letters e.g. ascenders, descenders.
  - Use diagonal strokes to join letters.
  - Use horizontal strokes to join letters.
  - Understand which letters when adjacent to one another or best left without joining.
  - Begin to write with a legible and consistent handwriting style (e.g. by ensuring the down strokes of letters are parallel equidistant; that lines of writing are spaced sufficiently so that ascenders and descenders of letters do not touch)

## Year 4

- Sit correctly at the table for writing.
- Hold a pencil comfortably and correctly.
- Position the paper appropriately according to their dominant writing hand.
- Apply the appropriate pressure with a pen/pencil on to paper when writing.

- Form all lower-case letters and capital letters accurately and consistently, using knowledge of handwriting 'families'.
  - Consistently form lower case letters of the correct size in relation to each other
  - Appropriately size all lower-case letters relative to each other and the base lines.
  - Position all lower-case letters and capital letters correctly relative to the base line.
  - Consistently leave appropriate spaces between words
  - Use correct terminology to refer to letters e.g. ascenders, descenders
  - Understand which letters when adjacent to one another or best left without joining.
- Accurately and consistently use diagonal strokes to join letters.
  - Accurately and consistently use horizontal strokes to join letters.
  - Write with a legible and consistent handwriting style.

#### Year 5

- Sit correctly at the table for writing.
  - Hold a pencil comfortably and correctly.
  - Position the paper appropriately according to their dominant writing hand.
  - Apply the appropriate pressure with a pen/pencil on to paper when writing.
- Form all lower-case letters and capital letters accurately and consistently, using knowledge of handwriting 'families'.
  - Consistently form lower case letters of the correct size in relation to each other
  - Appropriately size all lower-case letters relative to each other and the base lines.
  - Position all lower-case letters and capital letters correctly relative to the base line.
  - Consistently leave appropriate spaces between words
  - Use correct terminology to refer to letters e.g. ascenders, descenders
- Accurately and consistently use diagonal strokes to join letters.
  - Accurately and consistently use horizontal strokes to join letters.
  - Understand which letters when adjacent to one another or best left without joining.
  - Write with a legible and consistent handwriting style.
- Build speed of writing while maintaining legibility, correct letter formation and joins.

#### Year 6

- Sit correctly at the table for writing.
- Hold a pencil comfortably and correctly.
- Position the paper appropriately according to their dominant writing hand.
- Apply the appropriate pressure with a pen/pencil on to paper when writing.

- Form all lower-case letters and capital letters accurately and consistently, using knowledge of handwriting 'families'.
- Consistently form lower case letters of the correct size in relation to each other
- Appropriately size all lower-case letters relative to each other and the base lines.
- Position all lower-case letters and capital letters correctly relative to the base line.
- Consistently leave appropriate spaces between words.
- Use correct terminology to refer to letters e.g. ascenders, descenders.
  
- Accurately and consistently use diagonal strokes to join letters.
- Accurately and consistently use horizontal strokes to join letters.
- Understand which letters when adjacent to one another or best left without joining.
- Write with a legible and consistent handwriting style.
  
- Write legibly and fluently and with increasingly efficient speed.
- Be aware that different qualities and speeds of writing are required for different tasks: personal notes, exams, course work, job applications – and adapt accordingly.
- Be aware of occasions when an unjoined style is appropriate: for labelling diagrams/data, e-mail addresses etc. and be able to use capital letters for form-filling.