

Handwriting Guidelines and Expectations

Foundation Stage

St Vincent's follow the Nelson Handwriting Scheme which starts in Reception and continues to Year 6. Teachers have high expectations of pupil's handwriting and presentation across all subject areas.

- Teacher's will create conditions for good writing: atmosphere, seating and posture, and pencil grip.
- Main focus of lower case letters. Capital letters will be started in Year 1.
- The digits 0-9 are covered too.
- The correct formation of most lower case letters should be embedded by the end of the Foundation Stage.

How to support your child at home

- ❖ Develop fine motor skills to strengthen hand muscles – threading, cutting, pinching, squeezing, rolling (playdough)
- ❖ Develop pencil control – tracing, writing name
- ❖ Practise letter formations

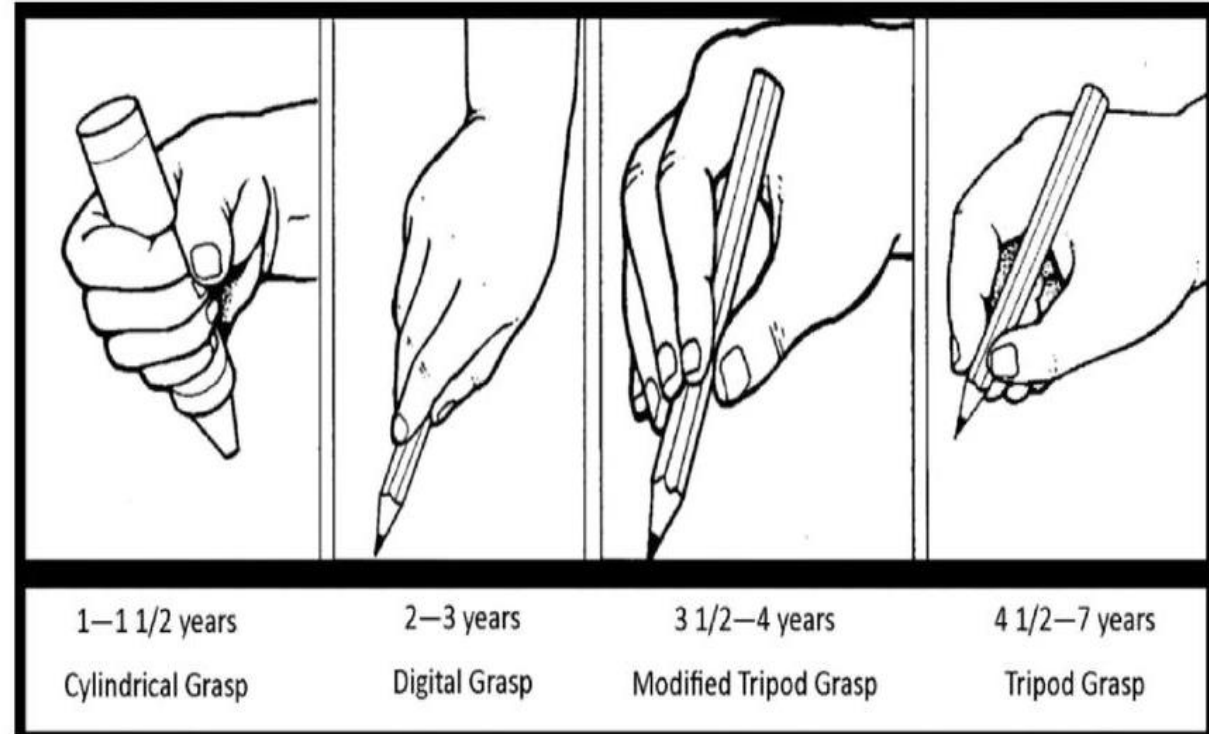


Letter Formations

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee
Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj
Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo
Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt
Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy
Zz

0 1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9

Pencil grip • <https://youtu.be/WjzNyHgPZac>



The tripod grip is the most traditional handwriting grip taught.



Handwriting Guidelines and Expectations

Year 1

St Vincent's follow the Nelson Handwriting Scheme which starts in Reception and continues to Year 6. Teachers have high expectations of pupil's handwriting and presentation across all subject areas.

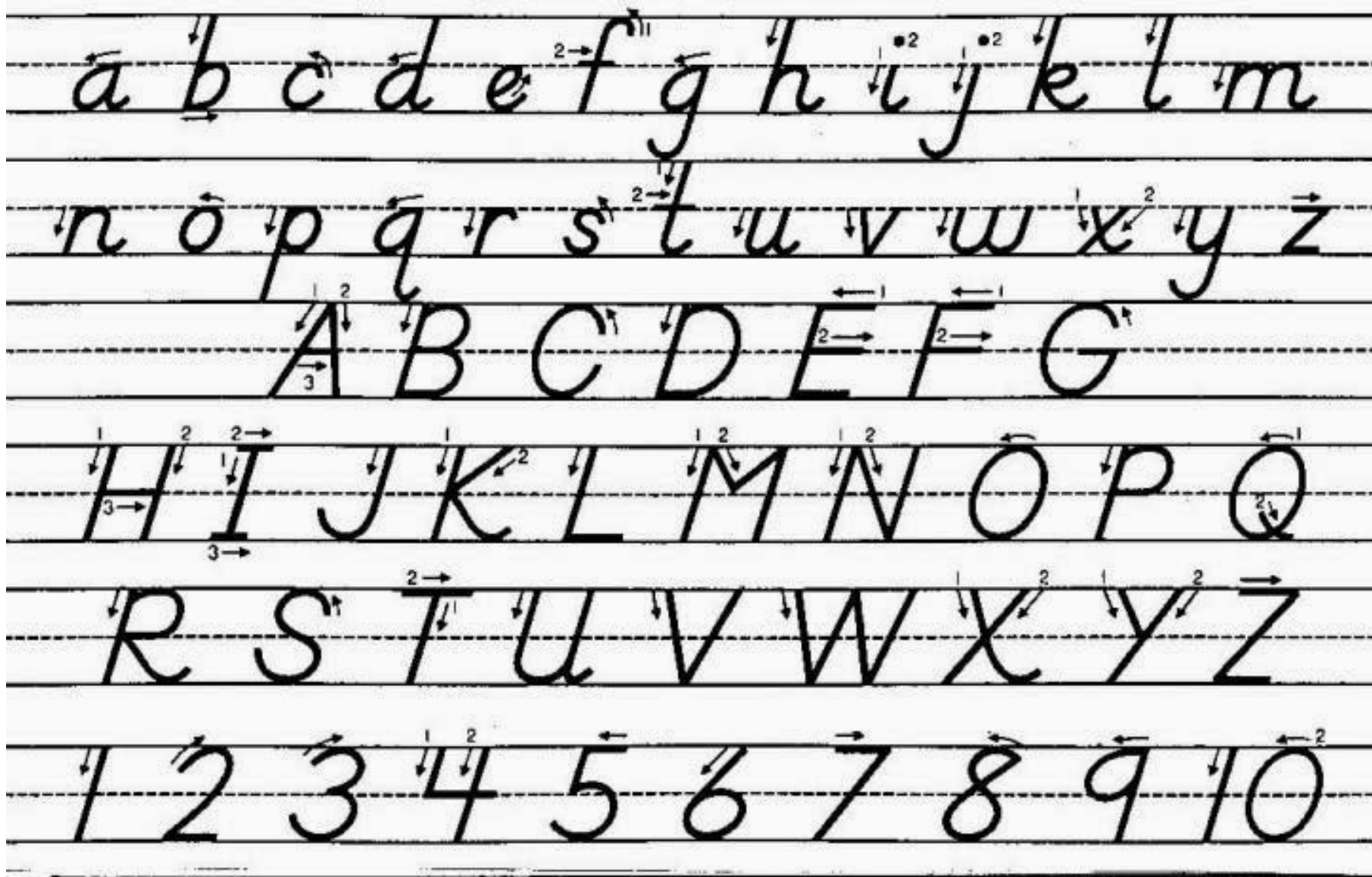
- Teacher's will create conditions for good writing: atmosphere, seating and posture, and pencil and pen grip.
- A clear focus in sitting letters correctly on the line with the ascenders and descenders in the correct place.
- Once lower case letters are formed correctly pupils will start capital letter formations.
- The digits 0-9 are covered too.
- Children will understand which letters belong to which handwriting 'families' (i.e. letters that are formed in similar ways) and will practise these.

How to support your child at home

- ❖ Practise the correct formations of letters
- ❖ Encourage your child to sit each letter on the line correctly with the ascenders and descenders in the correct place
- ❖ Develop fine motor skills to build strength in hand muscles



Letter formations Year 1



Letter families

For teaching letter formation

Letter family 1

Down and off in another direction

l i t j u y

Letter family 2

Down and retrace upwards

m n r b p h k

Letter family 3

Anticlockwise round

c a d o q g e f s

Letter family 4

Zig-zag letters

v w x z



Handwriting Guidelines and Expectations

Year 2

St Vincent's follow the Nelson Handwriting Scheme which starts in Reception and continues to Year 6. Teachers have high expectations of pupil's handwriting and presentation across all subject areas.

Pupils will be taught to:

- Form lower-case letters of the correct size relative to one another.
- Start using some of the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined.
- Write capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower case letters.
- Use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters.

How to support your child at home

- ❖ Practise the correct formations of letters introducing some of the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters.



The Four Joins

1. to letters without ascenders
2. to letters with ascenders
3. horizontal joins
4. horizontal joins to letters with ascenders

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

The break letters (letters that aren't joined from) are:

b g j p q x y z

examples

ack	an	ar	ch	ck
ed	eg	ff	fl	flo
id	ig	ill	ing	ink
ll	ng	nk	od	of
og	oo	oom	oon	re
sh	sl	sli	slu	st
sti	th	tl	um	un
ung	unk	ve	vl	wl

Year 2

The four handwriting joins

Can you make the joins correctly? Write these letters.

The
first
join

ad ce cc do dy

ha ki lm tu uv

The
second
join

ab ef il ik ut

sh nl cl ll uk

The
third
join

fo fa og om rp

ve rd rn wo wi

The
fourth
join

ff fl ol oh rt

rf rl rb wl wk

The
break
letters

be go ju pi qu

xa ye zo bb gg



Handwriting Guidelines and Expectations

Year 3

St Vincent's follow the Nelson Handwriting Scheme which starts in Reception and continues to Year 6. Teachers have high expectations of pupil's handwriting and presentation across all subject areas.

Pupils will be taught to:

- Use the diagonal and horizontal strokes that are needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined.
- Increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting
- Space letters consistently and keep ascenders and descenders in proportion.
- The idea of writing with a slant is introduced for the first time.

How to support your child at home

- ❖ Encourage your child to practise writing using the diagonal and horizontal strokes that are needed to join letters.



The Four Joins

1. to letters without ascenders
2. to letters with ascenders
3. horizontal joins
4. horizontal joins to letters with ascenders

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

The break letters (letters that aren't joined from) are:

b g j p q x y z

examples

ad	ai	al	as	ay
ea	ed	ee	er	es
fa	fe	fu	ha	hy
in	ine	ir	ky	ly
oa	od	oe	og	oh
oi	ok	ol	oo	ot
ou	ov	ow	ox	oy
re	ri	ru	ry	sh
ta	ur	ut	ute	ve
vi	vu	wu		

Year 3

The four handwriting joins

Can you make the joins correctly? Write these letters.

The first join

ad ce cc do dy

ha ki lm tu uv

The second join

ab ef il ik ut

sh nl cl ll uk

The third join

fo fa og om rp

ve rd rn wo wi

The fourth join

ff fl ol oh rt

rf rl rb wl wk

The break letters

be go ju pi qu

xa ye zo bb gg



Handwriting Guidelines and Expectations

Year 4

St Vincent's follow the Nelson Handwriting Scheme which starts in Reception and continues to Year 6. Teachers have high expectations of pupil's handwriting and presentation across all subject areas.

Pupils will be taught to:

- Use the diagonal and horizontal strokes that are needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined.
- Increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting
- Space letters consistently and keep ascenders and descenders in proportion.
- The idea of writing with a slant is introduced for the first time.

In Year 4, pupils have the opportunity to earn their pen licence. When pupils are demonstrating legibility and consistency in their handwriting, pupils will receive a certificate by the teacher and use pen to write in all subject areas.

How to support your child at home

- ❖ Encourage your child to practise writing using the diagonal and horizontal strokes that are needed to join letters.



diagonal join to ascender (e.g. at)

This join is used to join letters in this box . . .

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

diagonal join, no ascender (e.g. da)

This join is used to join letters in this box . . .

a b c d e h i k l m n p q s t u

horizontal join, no ascender (e.g. wo)

This join is used to join letters in this box . . .

f o r v w

horizontal join to ascender (e.g. oh)

This join is used to join letters in this box . . .

f o r v w

break letters

Joins are not made from these letters.

g j y

to letters in this box.

b f h k l t

to letters in this box.

e i j m n p r u v w y

** a c d g o q s*

to letters in this box.

e i j m n p r u v w y

** a c d g o q s*

to letters in this box.

b f h k l t

Joins are not made to or from these letters.

x z

* anticlockwise letters

examples

att	ay	cc	ck	ee
fa	ff	fin	fir	five
fl	fla	fle	flo	ft
fte	hive	ht	ick	ie
ify	ig	ily	it	itt
ity	ive	ke	lig	live
lk	ly	mig	mm	ng
now	oc	ock	od	oo
op	ott	rec	red	rig
ro	row	rr	ss	swim
th	tt	uck	ved	ves
wa	wan	was	wav	wh
wha	whe	who		



Handwriting Guidelines and Expectations

Year 5

St Vincent's follow the Nelson Handwriting Scheme which starts in Reception and continues to Year 6. Teachers have high expectations of pupil's handwriting and presentation across all subject areas.

In Years 5-6 pupils are expected to be joining fluently and correctly. Teachers will continue to provide structured practice for the skills that have been developed so far.

- Children will continue to practise the joins and the break letters, looking at consistency of sizing and spacing.
- Nelson Handwriting empowers children to develop their own style of handwriting from a secure base, choosing their writing implement and style as appropriate to the occasion.
- Children are taught about the difference in expectation between informal jottings and final presented versions and given opportunities to practise these. A range of contexts, from writing addresses to labelling maps and diagrams, help them learn the contexts in which joined or unjoined writing is most appropriate.

How to support your child at home

- ❖ Encourage your child to join fluently and correctly, focusing greatly on the presentation of their writing.



diagonal join to ascender (e.g. at)

This join is used to join letters in this box . . .

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

diagonal join, no ascender (e.g. da)

This join is used to join letters in this box . . .

a b c d e h i k l m n p q s t u

horizontal join, no ascender (e.g. wo)

This join is used to join letters in this box . . .

f o r v w

horizontal join to ascender (e.g. oh)

This join is used to join letters in this box . . .

f o r v w

break letters

Joins are not made from these letters.

g j y

to letters in this box.

b f h k l t

to letters in this box.

e i j m n p r u v w y

* a c d g o q s

to letters in this box.

e i j m n p r u v w y

* a c d g o q s

to letters in this box.

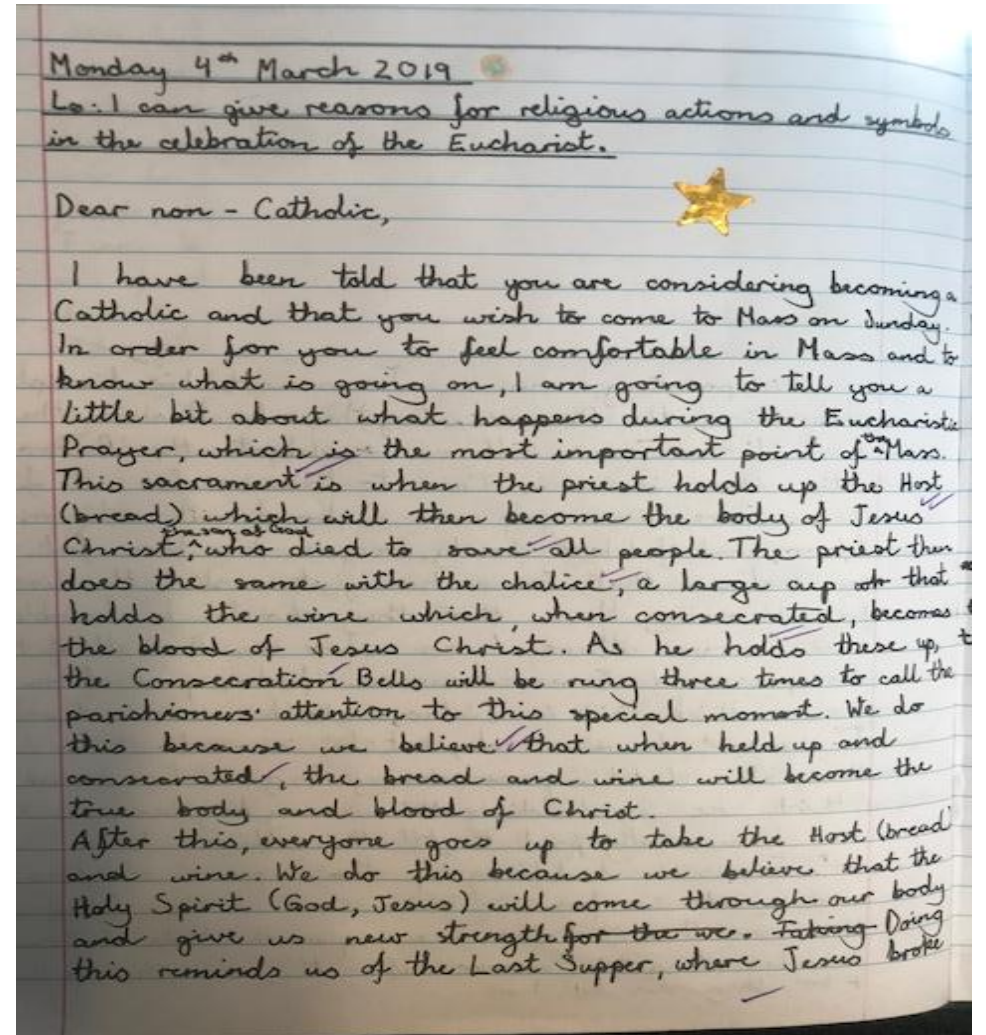
b f h k l t

Joins are not made to or from these letters.

x z

* anticlockwise letters

Y5 example



Handwriting Guidelines and Expectations

Year 6

St Vincent's follow the Nelson Handwriting Scheme which starts in Reception and continues to Year 6. Teachers have high expectations of pupil's handwriting and presentation across all subject areas.

In Years 5-6 pupils are expected to be joining fluently and correctly. Teachers will continue to provide structured practice for the skills that have been developed so far.

- Children will continue to practise the joins and the break letters, looking at consistency of sizing and spacing.
- Nelson Handwriting empowers children to develop their own style of handwriting from a secure base, choosing their writing implement and style as appropriate to the occasion.
- Children are taught about the difference in expectation between informal jottings and final presented versions and given opportunities to practise these. A range of contexts, from writing addresses to labelling maps and diagrams, help them learn the contexts in which joined or unjoined writing is most appropriate.

How to support your child at home

- ❖ Encourage your child to join fluently and correctly, focusing greatly on the presentation of their writing.



Examples

ack	an	ar	ch	ck
ed	eg	ff	fl	flo
id	ig	ill	ing	ink
ll	ng	nk	od	of
og	oo	oom	oon	re
sh	sl	sli	slu	st
sti	th	tl	um	un
ung	unk	ve	vl	wl

ad	ai	al	as	ay
ea	ed	ee	er	es
fa	fe	fu	ha	hy
in	ine	ir	ky	ly
oa	od	oe	og	oh
oi	ok	ol	oo	ot
ou	ov	ow	ox	oy
re	ri	ru	ry	sh
ta	ur	ut	ute	ve
vi	vu	wu		



Examples

att	ay	cc	ck	ee
fa	ff	fin	fir	five
fl	fla	fle	flo	ft
fte	hive	ht	ick	ie
ify	ig	ily	it	itt
ity	ive	ke	lig	live
lk	ly	mig	mm	ng
now	oc	ock	od	oo
op	ott	rec	red	rig
ro	row	rr	ss	swim
th	tt	uck	ved	ves
wa	wan	was	wav	wh
wha	whe	who		

Meet Grandma tomorrow
at ten o'clock at the zoo.

People can ride bicycles to

move around speedily.

I built a massive tower with

all the bricks in the box.

The thirsty dog tried to

swallow too much water.



Examples

Extra

- A** Read the words in the box below.
They all contain the letters *ea*.

thread feather spread
weather bread leather

- B** Organise the words above into two lists of rhyming words.
Write these lists in your book.



Extension

Copy this poem into your book.
Remember to form and join your letters carefully.

Weather can be sunny or foggy,
Weather can be dry or soggy,
Weather can be rainy or snowy,
Weather can be calm or blowy.

By Julia Topazio

