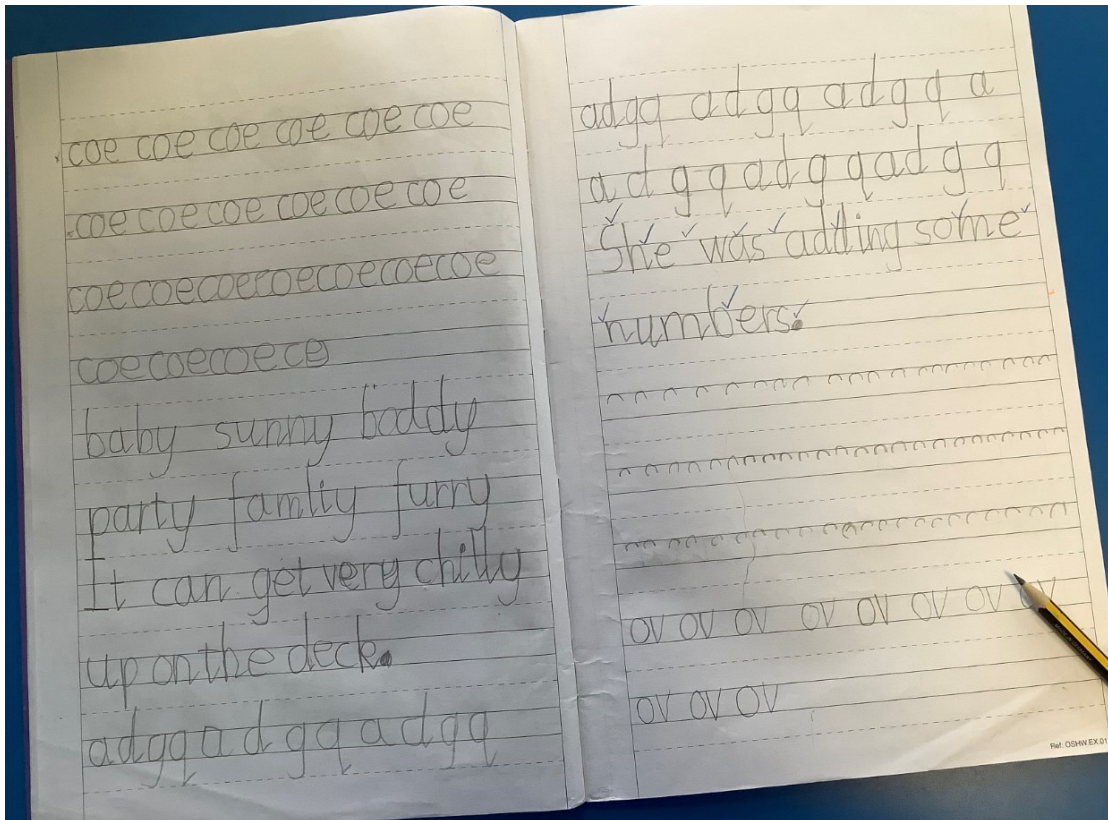




Year 1 Handwriting Guide



ISHA

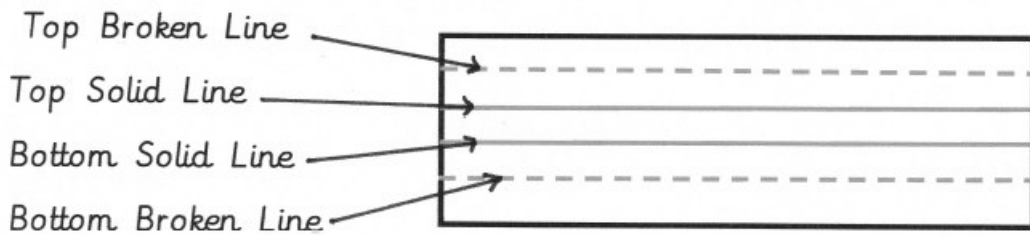
Improvement in Schools Through Handwriting and Art

From year 1 onwards we use the 'Achieving Excellence in Handwriting' approach, developed by Martin Harvey and Debbie Watson. The handwriting style that the children will develop throughout school is semi-cursive. It is simplistic, but very clear, and it does not have the 'loops' or 'lead ins' which are features of more complex handwriting styles.

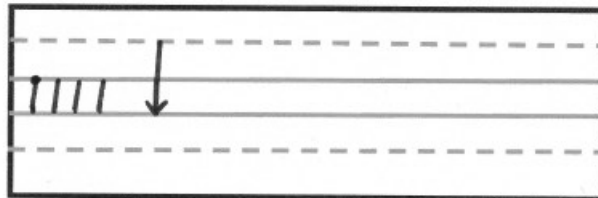
In year 1 we focus on understanding:

- The handwriting lines and where to place letters on them
- The height of each letter (tall, short, tail, teenager, greedy)
- Where to start and finish each letter
- Writing letters in printed form (not joined)

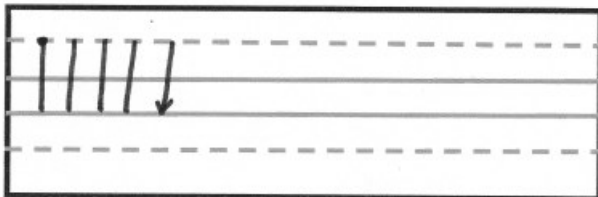
We also focus on learning the correct vocabulary to use when describing letters:



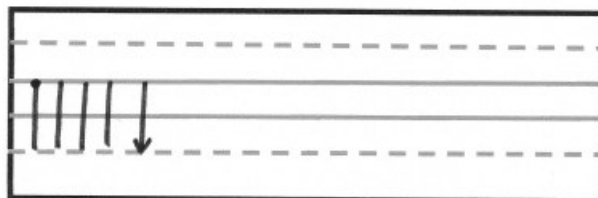
Short Lines



Tall Lines



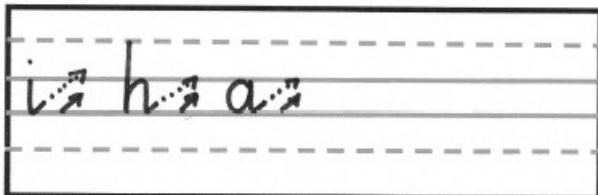
Tail Lines



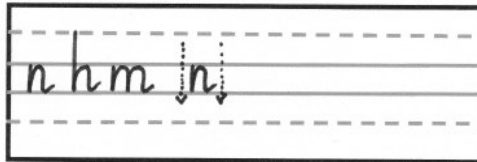
North-east Joining Line

or

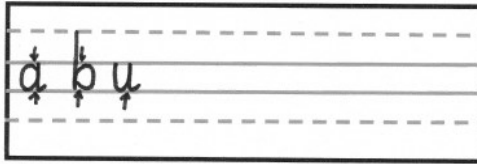
Diagonal joining stroke



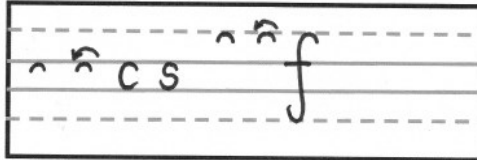
Narrow bridges



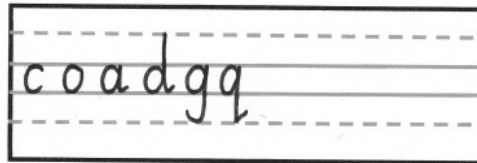
Letters with triangles



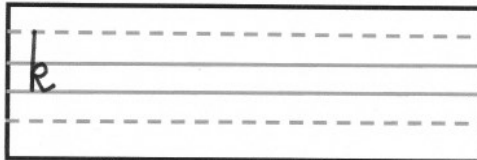
Coat hanger hooks



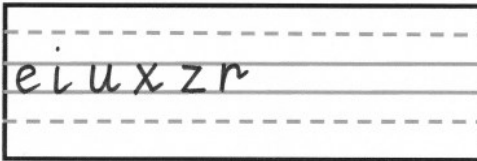
Egg shapes in the coat hanger letters



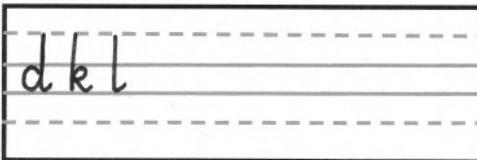
Shoe lace k



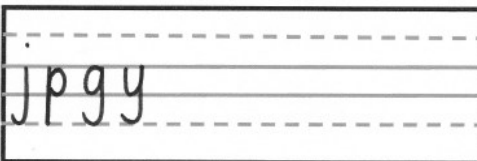
Small letters



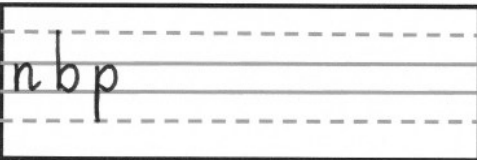
Tall letters



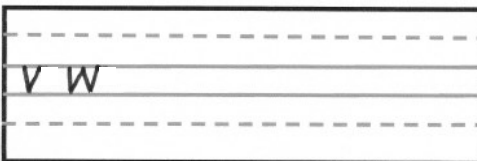
Tail letters



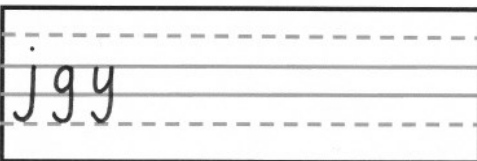
Narrow letters



Letters with sharp points



Narrow curved tails



Lower Case Letter Formation

We teach the letters in 'families', with other letters which follow a similar pattern.

Family 1 - The Straight Line Family

● = start

● = finish

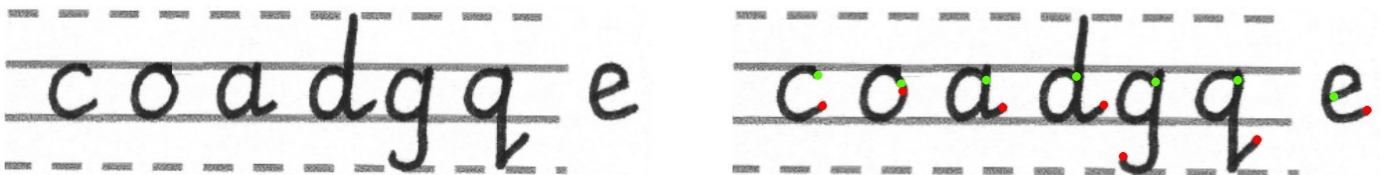
These letters are based on a single vertical line.



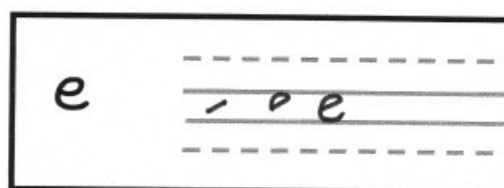
The t is the only 'teenager letter'. It starts halfway between the top broken line and the top solid line.

Family 2 - The Coat Hanger Family

These letters are based on a c shape.

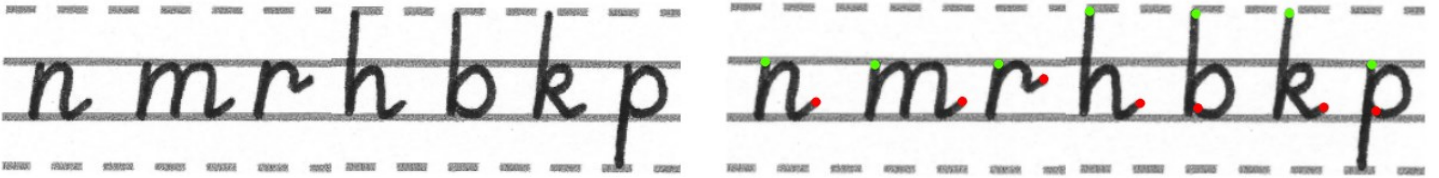


These letters are oval rather than circular. The letters begin just below the top solid line with a 'coat hanger' shape. Letter e is the distant cousin of the Coat Hanger family. Although it is based on the c shape, it doesn't start with the hook like the other letters in this family. It begins halfway between the two solid lines and moves upwards to the right.



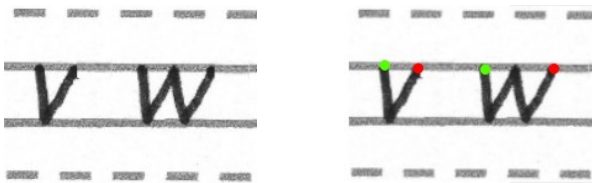
Family 3 - The Bridge Family

These letters have a vertical down stroke followed by a diagonal movement to the right.



The letter k is a 'shoelace' k to enable it to join other letters and to distinguish it from the capital K.

Family 4 - The Zig-Zag Family

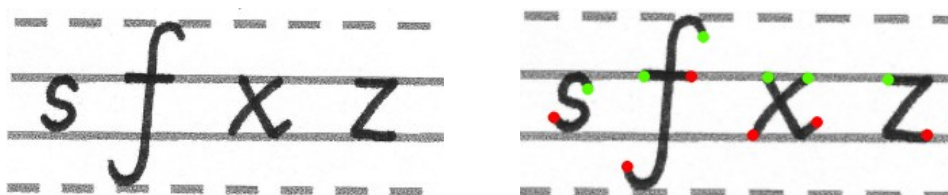


Family 5 - The Smile Family



Family 6 - The Misfits Family

These letters are unique, individual and do not fit with any other letter group.



The f is the only 'greedy letter'. It touches all four lines.

Upper Case Letter Formation

These are taught as tall letters in size. They do not join on to the letter which follows.

A / AAA	B / PBB
C ^CC	D /D
E /LEE	F /FF
G ^CCGGG	H /HH
I /II	J /JJ
K /PK	L /L
M /MM	N /NN
O ^CO	P /P
Q ^COQ	R /PR
S ^SSS	T /T
U /U	V /V
W /WW	X /X
Y /Y	Z ^ZZ

Number Formation

Numbers can be written using the line guides in a very similar way to letters. All numbers are regarded as the same size as tall letters. They all start on, or just below the top broken line and sit on the bottom solid line.

