

St Bridget's CE Primary Handwriting Progression

	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Physical Development & Grip:	Develops core strength, shoulder stability, and fine motor control through fine and gross motor activities. Progresses from a palmar/pincer grip to an effective tripod grip.	Maintains a comfortable, functional tripod grip consistently.					
Posture & Positioning:	Learns correct table seating position (feet flat, upright posture, non-dominant hand steadying the page).	Adopts the correct table seating position (feet flat, upright posture, non-dominant hand steadying the page).					
Letter Formation:	Learns single-letter print formation in line with phonics teaching. Starts and finishes letters in the correct place, practising by "letter families"	Forms all lower-case letters, capital letters (A–Z), and digits (0–9) with correct directionality and entry/exit points. Begins placing letters correctly on ruled lines. Leaves appropriate spaces between words.	Forms lower-case letters of correct relative size (e.g., distinguishing ascenders like <i>b, d, h</i> and descenders like <i>g, p, y</i>). Introduction to Joining: Learns basic cursive joining strokes (diagonal and horizontal joins) once individual letter formation is secure: <i>Diagonal joins to letters without ascenders</i> (e.g., <i>in, am, ear</i>). <i>Diagonal joins to letters with ascenders</i> (e.g., <i>ch, th, it</i>). <i>Horizontal joins to letters without</i>	Consistency & Style: Consolidates diagonal and horizontal joining strokes across all extended writing. Letter Separation: Ensures downstrokes are parallel and equidistant. Maintains clear line spacing so ascenders and descenders do not collide.	Fluency & Stamina: Increases writing speed while preserving neatness, legibility, and proper line spacing. Consistency: Adapts word spacing and character sizing predictably across different ruling formats (e.g., wide-ruled vs. narrow-ruled paper).	Adaptation & Speed: Writes legibly and fluently under timed conditions or during rapid note-taking. Tool & Style Selection: Chooses the appropriate letter style (e.g., unjoined print for labeling diagrams/filling forms vs. fluent cursive for narrative writing). Selects suitable writing instruments for specific tasks.	Mastery & Presentation: Maintains clear legibility and neatness when writing at high speeds across all subjects. Secondary Readiness: Prepares for the demands of Key Stage 3 with a fast, fluent, and personal style.

			<i>ascenders</i> (e.g., <i>ou, ow, ve</i>). <i>Horizontal joins to letters with ascenders</i> (e.g., <i>wh, ot, of</i>). Unjoined Letters: Recognizes "break letters" that are best left unjoined (e.g., <i>b, g, j, p, q, x, y, z</i>).				
Key Goal:	Writes recognisable lower-case letters and capital letters, avoiding incorrect letter paths.	Secure, unjoined print formation with consistent sizing relative to capital letters.	Transitions smoothly from print to basic joined cursive style while maintaining legibility.	Cursive style is fully established and consistent across all curriculum subjects.	Legible, fluent cursive writing sustained over longer passages.	Personal handwriting style becomes automatic, freeing cognitive working memory for composition.	Meets Teacher Assessment Framework standards for Key Stage 2 statutory assessment (maintaining legible, joined handwriting across all written work).