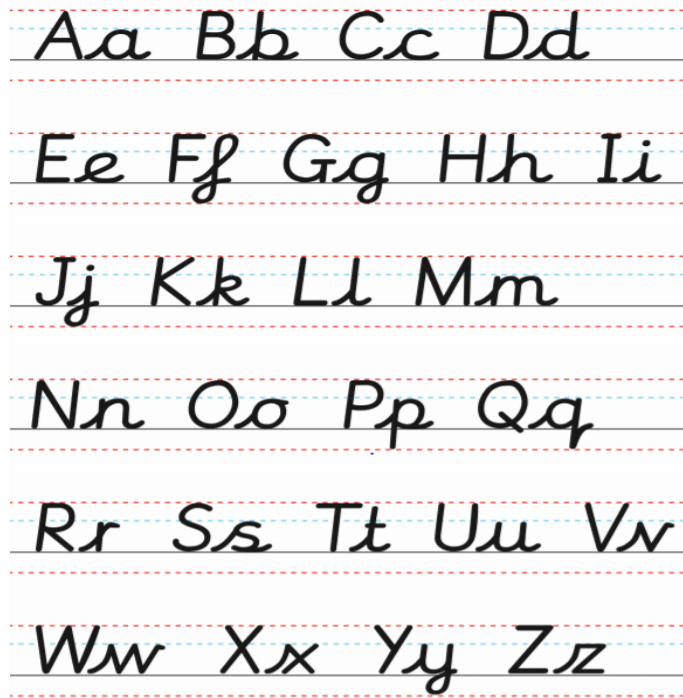


# Handwriting

The National Curriculum says that children should learn to form all their lower case and capital letters plus digits 0 to 9 by the end of Year 1. They then need to start joining their letters in Year 2. In Year 3, they need to concentrate on increasing the legibility, consistency and quality of their joined handwriting. Throughout Key Stage 2, children need to keep up the quality of their handwriting, and concentrate on increasing their speed.



## Tips

Good posture is important for cursive writing.

When learning cursive handwriting, children are not taught letters in alphabetical order, but in groups according to their formation: for example, 'a', 'c', 'e' and 'o' are taught together because they're all based on an anticlockwise circle.

Practising patterns of joined up letters (such as a string of connected 'c's) helps children master cursive.

Don't stick to practising on paper. Children can practise specific joins in other mediums, such as tracing them in the air, in sand with a stick or on another person's back with their finger.

Keep an eye on your child's pen grip. It's important that the pad of the thumb connects with the pencil.

If your child is using a pencil, the softer B pencils are generally easier to write with as they move more fluently across the page