

# Handwriting at Trafalgar

## **Aims**

Here at Trafalgar, we are very proud of our pupils' handwriting. Handwriting is a basic skill that influences the quality of work throughout the curriculum.

By the end of Year 2, pupils should be able to:

- know the importance of a clear and neat presentation to communicate meaning effectively.
- form lower-case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place.
- form lower-case letters of the correct size relative to one another.
- form 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.

## **Consistency throughout the school**

Our aim is to help pupils enjoy learning and developing their handwriting, with a sense of achievement and pride. Pupils should be encouraged to take pride in the presentation of their work.

Pupils should experience coherence and continuity in the learning and teaching of handwriting across all school years.

At Trafalgar, we have the following expectations for classes (Reception, Year 1, and Year 2):

- All classes do handwriting for 40 minutes every week. This is taught in direct, discreet teaching sessions.
- Children's writing should be in pencil.
- Children should not use rubbers, erasers, or liquid paper to correct work.
- For creative writing, children should have the opportunity to use every other line in their books, to make drafting and redrafting work easier.
- All children in the school are taught using the same 'patter' (see next page), which is clearly displayed in every classroom. This includes lower case and upper case letter formation and numeral formation.
- Teachers model our exemplar handwriting in their modelling and marking.

Once pupils are secure in their handwriting formation, pupils will be encouraged to start joining letters.

These expectations are linked to the Greenway Academy's handwriting expectations (our linked junior school) - see:

<https://www.greenwayacademy.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=5705&type=pdf>

This links to our 'Purple Polish' strategy - please see the Marking Policy.

For more information on strategies we use to help children develop their handwriting skills, please see the 'Handwriting Supporting Documents' addendum.

## Letter Formation Patter at Trafalgar

At Trafalgar, we teach the letters in the order indicated below (1 to 4).

1. **Curly Caterpillar Family** (anticlockwise movements)  
a, c, d, e, f, g, o, q, s
2. **Long Ladder Family** (mainly down and round movements) i, j, l, t, u, y
3. **One Armed Robot Family** (down, up, and over movements)  
b, h, k, m, n, p, r
4. **Zig-Zag Monster Family** (diagonal movements)  
v, w, x, z

Lower Case Letter Formation			UpperCase Letter Formation	
	Patter	Just Technique - No Figurative Language		Just Technique - No Figurative Language
a	go round the apple, down and flick	make a curve, up, down, and flick	A	start at the bottom, slope up to a point, slope back down and out, lift, across at the middle
b	all the way down the butterfly's body, back up halfway and round the wing	down, down, up a bit, over, and round	B	start at the top, down, lift, back to the top and make a curve round to the middle, curve back out and round to the bottom
c	go around the caterpillar's face	make a curve	C	make a curve
d	go round the dinosaur's body, up his back and down, and round to his tail	make a curve, up, up, down, down, and flick	D	start at the top, straight down, back up to the top, curve round to the bottom

e	go around the elephant's head and add his curly trunk	across and make a curve round	E	start at the top, straight down, lift, straight line out from the top, lift, straight line out from the middle, lift, straight line out from the bottom
f	back and over the fish's head, all the way down his body and under the tail	found, down, down, and round...across	F	start at the top, straight down, lift, straight line out from the top, lift, straight line out from the middle
g	go round the goat's tummy, down and round his tail	make a curve, up, down, down, and round	G	make a curve, lift, go across the bottom end of the curve, lift, go straight down from the middle of the line at the end of the curve
h	start at the top, go down, back up halfway, over the hat and flick	down, down, up a bit, over, down, and flick	H	start at the top, straight down, lift, leave a space, start at the top, straight down, lift, go to the middle and draw a straight line across joining the two lines
i	go down the insect's body, add a flick for his tail and a dot for his head	down and flick...dot	I	start at the top, straight down, lift, straight across at the top, lift, straight across at the bottom

j	go straight down the jellybean, curve round and add a dot	down, down, and round...dot	J	start at the top, come down, curve to the left, lift, across at the top
k	go down the king's body, back up, put on his arm and his puffy sleeve, then put on his leg and foot	down, down, up a bit, over, round, out, and flick	K	start at the top, straight down, lift, go to the middle, straight line sloping up and out, back to the middle, straight line sloping down and out
l	go straight down the lolly stick and flick	down, down, and flick	L	start at the top, come down, and go straight across
m	down, back up and over the mouse's ear, down, back up, over the next one, down and flick.	down, up, over and down, up, over, down, and flick	M	start at the bottom, straight up, diagonal down to a point, diagonal back up, straight down
n	go down Nellie's hat, up and over, down and flick	down, up, over, down, and flick	N	start at the bottom, straight up, diagonal down, straight up
o	back and over the octopus' body and right around	round, round, and join	O	round, round, and join
p	go down the handle, back up and around the pan	down, down, up, up, over, and round	P	start at the top, down, lift, back to the top and make a curve round to the middle

q	go round the queen's head and down her lovely long hair. (revise the 'u' rhyme next to the q)	make a curve, up, down, down, and tick	Q	round, round, and join, lift, straight line sloping across the bottom of the oval
r	r - start at the top, go down, back up and over the rabbit's floppy ear	down, up, and over a bit	R	start at the top, straight down, lift, back to the top and make a curve round, straight line sloping down and out
s	start at the snake's head and then slide down to his tail	make a curve round, and curve round the other way	S	make a curve round, and curve round the other way
t	go down the tiger's back, curl round his tail and put his arms on	down and flick...across	T	start at the top, straight down, lift, straight across
u	start at the top, go down, around the puddle, back up, down and flick	down, round, up, down, and flick	U	start at the top, come down, curve back up
v	slope down Val's arm, make a point for her elbow and slope back up to her wrist	down, up	V	down, up
w	slope down the wave, slope back up, slope down the wave and slope back up	down, up, down, up	W	down, up, down, up

x	slope down the fox's whiskers, pencil off. Slope back up the other side	down, stop...down, stop	X	slope, lift, and slope across
y	go down and around, down the yoyo's string and add a curl	down, round, up, down, down, and round	y	slope down, slope back up, lift, come down from the point
z	along the zebra's back, slope back down the stripe and along the tummy.	across, down, across	Z	go across, slope, go back across

Left handed children could be taught to cross t s and fs from right to left (pulling instead of pushing).

# Numeral formation and patter



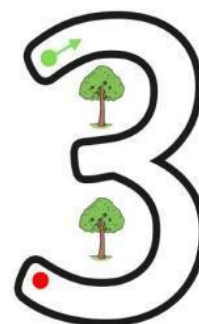
one

Straight line down and then  
you're done! 1 is fun.



two

Half a heart will never do,  
Slide to the right, make a 2.



three

Around the tree, around the tree,  
That's the way to make a 3.



four

Down and across, down some more,  
That's the way to make a 4.



five

Make a hat, make his back.  
Make five's tummy round and fat.



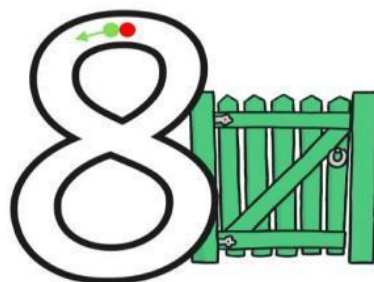
six

Make a 'C' then in you go,  
Now you've made a 6, you know.



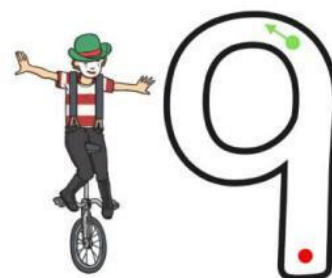
seven

Across the sky, down from heaven,  
Now you've made a 7.



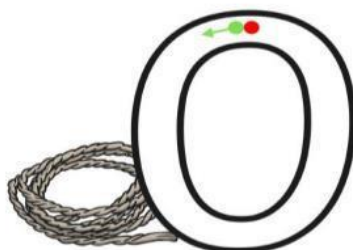
eight

Make an 's', then shut the gate,  
That's the way to make an 8.



nine

Circle and line,  
That's the way to make a 9!



zero

Make a loop, just like so,  
Now you've made a 0.