

## England

The following table provides guidance on the expectations of the 2014 National Curriculum in England, with regards to handwriting.

Year 1	<p>Pupils should be taught to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly</li> <li>• form lower-case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place</li> <li>• form capital letters</li> <li>• form digits 0-9</li> <li>• understand which letters belong to which handwriting 'families' (i.e. letters that are formed in similar ways)</li> <li>• leave spaces between words.</li> </ul>
Year 2	<p>Pupils should be taught to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• form lower-case letters of the correct size relative to one another</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• write capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower case letters</li> <li>• use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters.</li> </ul>
Years 3 and 4	<p>Pupils should be taught to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting (e.g. ensure downstrokes of letters are parallel and equidistant; lines of writing are spaced sufficiently so that the ascenders and descenders of letters do not touch).</li> </ul>
Years 5 and 6	<p>Pupils should be taught to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• write legibly, fluently and with increasing speed by:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ choosing which shape of a letter to use when given choices</li> <li>◦ deciding whether or not to join specific letters</li> <li>◦ choosing the writing implement that is best suited for a task.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Scotland

The following table provides a summary of the expectations and outcomes of the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence, with regards to handwriting.

First Level	I can present my writing in a way that will make it legible and attractive for my reader, combining words, images and other features. LIT 1-24a
Second Level	I consider the impact that layout and presentation will have and can combine lettering, graphics and other features to engage my reader. LIT 2-24a



# Guide to Curriculum Expectations

## Wales

The following table provides a summary of the expectations set out in the Foundation Phase Framework and the Programme of Study for Wales, with regards to handwriting.

Reception	Children are able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hold writing instruments appropriately</li> <li>• write from left to right</li> <li>• discriminate between letters.</li> </ul>
Year 1	Children are able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• form upper- and lower-case letters that are usually clearly shaped and correctly orientated.</li> </ul>
Year 2	Children are able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• form upper- and lower-case letters accurately and with consistent size.</li> </ul>
Year 3	Children are able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• produce legible handwriting and present work appropriately joining letters in some words.</li> </ul>
Year 4	Children are able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• produce handwriting which is clear and legible and may be cursive.</li> </ul>
Year 5	Children are able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• produce legible, cursive handwriting with increasing fluency.</li> </ul>
Year 6	Children are able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• produce fluent and legible handwriting.</li> </ul>

## Northern Ireland

The following table provides a summary of the expectations set out in the Northern Ireland Primary Curriculum, with regards to handwriting.

Foundation Stage	By the end of the Foundation Stage the majority of children will be able to use a pencil and hold it effectively to form recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed.
Key Stage 1	By the end of Key Stage 1 children will be able to use a legible style of handwriting.
Key Stage 2	By the end of Key Stage 2 children will be able to use a swift and legible style of handwriting.

