

HANDWRITING OVERVIEW

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
<p>Basic patterning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - left to right - top to bottom - anti-clockwise - start/finish <p>Mechanics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - paper position - pencil grip - posture - distal function (Attachment 4) <p>Letter formation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beginners Alphabet - Upper/lower case - Head, body, tail - Wedge (Attachment 1) 	<p>Revise year 1</p> <p>Recommended line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 8 mm red/blue <p>Parallellity</p> <p>Clockwise</p> <p>Anti-clockwise</p> <p>Mechanics</p> <p>Semester 2/ Term 4</p> <p>Introduction to QLD Modern Cursive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - entries - exits - letters that change (f and z) (Attachment 2) 	<p>Revise year 2</p> <p>Mechanics</p> <p>Recommended line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6mm red/blue <p>Semester 2 Qld Modern Cursive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - entries/exits - strokes - joins - drop-ons - pen lift - ascenders - descenders (Attachment 3)
Daily – 15 minutes	Daily – 15 minutes	3 times/week 20 minutes
YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6 / YEAR 7
<p>Consolidation</p> <p>Mechanics</p> <p>Legibility</p> <p>Recommended line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 or 6mm red/blue <p>2 or 3 times/week</p>	<p>Speed techniques</p> <p>Pen manipulation activities</p> <p>Recommended line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4mm <p>2 times/week</p>	<p>Personal/mature style</p> <p>Calligraphy optional</p> <p>Recommended line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - blue lined paper <p>2 times/week</p>

To develop an understanding of the techniques used in handwriting it is important that consistent instruction be given throughout years 1-7. Because of the heavy demands of time, this instruction could be integrated with other subject areas, particularly in the middle and upper schools.

This is the *Beginners Alphabet*

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n
o p q r s t u v w x y z

The letters are grouped for instruction according to the movements involved.

The *clockwise* letters:

m n h k p b r j

Letters comprising *straight* lines:

i t l x z

The *anticlockwise* letters:

u v w o e c a d q f

Letters comprising *more than one* rotation:

g y s

Did you notice?

- the wedge shapes produced within many of the letters, eg. n m a b
- that all of the letters are sloped
- that all letters except 'e' and 't' begin on a line
- that letters which have 'descenders' or 'tails' finish **on** the line, eg

g g

Here are the *Capital Letters*.

These remain the same for both print and cursive

A B C D E F G H I J K L M

N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

NB. Children in Years 1 & 2 begin the capitals on the top line.

Entries and Exits – An Introduction to QLD Modern Cursive

As a prelude to joining the letters, 'entries' and 'exits' are attached to the beginning and/or end of *some* of the letters.

Exits Only:

a c d e h k l t

Rounded Entries:

n m r x

Pointed Entries:

i j p u v w y

Letters that change

Letters that don't join:

g j b s y z

Most letters which finish with a clockwise movement do not join the following letter.

Queensland Modern cursive looks like this:

The procedures for joining the letters are as follows:

Diagonal joins from the base:

The letters join from the exit and stroke at the base:

a c d e h I k l m n t u

“Dropping Letters On”

So that a covering stroke is not required, the letters

a c d g q

can be “dropped on”.

To do this, the exit is extended, eg. , the pen is lifted, and the next letter is “dropped on” without a retracing or covering stroke.

It is not necessary to drop on the letters a c d g q every time they occur. The “dropping on” of letters allows the hand to keep moving across the page. It is up to the writer to decide whether the pencil needs to be lifted or whether a retrace stroke is comfortable for the hand.

Horizontal Joins

Letters which finish at the top and join to the top of the body of the following letter have horizontal joins, eg.

Top Finishing Joins to Ascenders

For example,

Joining 'e'

'e' joins easily to and from most letters. However, it does **not** join after

o r v w

Letters Modified by Joins

At the beginning of a word, the letters 's' and 'f' are written like this:

However, when they occur in the middle of a word, the joins may cause the following modifications:

Double Letters

Because 's' finishes in a clockwise direction, it usually does not join to the following letter, eg.

However, this can cause problems when writing double 's', eg.

To overcome this, double 's' may be written in the following way.

Double Letters

To make the double 'f', use the diagonal cross-stroke of the first 'f' as the entry into the second, eg.

The Mechanics of Handwriting

YEAR LEVEL SAMPLES

THE BEGINNERS ALPHABET

Year 1

aA bB cC dD eE fF gG hH
iI jJ kK lL mM nN oO pP
qQ rR sS tT uU vV wW
xX yY zZ

QUEENSLAND MODERN CURSIVE

Year 2

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p
q r s t u v w x y z

NUMERALS

