



Fir Tree Handwriting Overview 2026 – 2027

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Year 1	Lowercase	Uppercase	Repetition of letters	Pairs of letters	Pairs of letters	Joining cursive writing
Year 2	Joining pairs of letters	Joining three letters	Joining two and three letters	Joining pairs of letters	Joining three letters	Joining two and three letters
Year 3	Joins in sentences	Joins in sentences	Joins in sentences	Joins in sentences	Joins in sentences	Joins in sentences
Year 4	Single letters into any join	Single letters into any join	Joining in sentences	Joining in sentences	Joining in sentences	Joining in sentences



Fir Tree's Handwriting Curriculum

At Fir Tree Primary School, handwriting is taught through a consistent, progressive approach that enables pupils to develop fluent, legible and efficient handwriting. We believe that secure handwriting reduces the cognitive demands of writing, allowing pupils to focus on composition, vocabulary and the communication of their ideas with increasing confidence.

Handwriting is taught regularly through short, focused lessons that provide pupils with frequent opportunities to practise and refine letter formation, joins and presentation. Lessons are carefully sequenced to build upon prior learning, ensuring that pupils develop automaticity and consistency as they progress through the school.

Each handwriting lesson follows a structured teaching sequence:

- A warm-up activity to develop hand and finger strength and improve fine motor control
- A short revision session revisiting previously taught letter formations
- Explicit teacher modelling of the new letter or join using the writing repeater
- Dedicated practice and application time, allowing pupils to develop accuracy and fluency

Where appropriate, practice activities use familiar words and phrases so that pupils can focus their attention on letter formation rather than spelling. All handwriting lessons are completed by hand, providing regular opportunities for pupils to develop stamina and consistency.

Teachers model correct letter formation throughout each lesson and provide immediate feedback as pupils practise. Adults carefully observe handwriting, recognising accurate formation while providing additional modelling and support where needed. This responsive approach enables misconceptions to be addressed immediately and ensures that pupils develop secure habits from the outset.

Handwriting expectations extend beyond discrete handwriting lessons. Pupils are encouraged to apply their handwriting skills consistently across all curriculum subjects, taking pride in the presentation of their work. As children become increasingly fluent writers, they are supported to develop a joined, legible and efficient handwriting style that allows them to write comfortably for sustained periods.

By the end of primary school, pupils will have developed a fluent, joined handwriting style that is clear, consistent and appropriately presented, enabling them to communicate their ideas effectively across the curriculum and beyond.