



Teach Handwriting

Welcome to our handwriting curriculum guide. This outlines expected achievement levels and teaching strategies for developing handwriting skills at Heatherlands Primary.



Handwriting Development Stages



Early Years

Focus on proper grip and basic letter formation.



Key Stage 1

Develop consistent letter size and spacing.



Lower Key Stage 2

Refine cursive writing and increase writing speed.



Upper Key Stage 2

Master personal style while maintaining legibility.

Expected Achievement Levels

Early Years

Children will develop their pencil grip and recognise letter shapes, forming all print letters and some capital letters.

Years 1 & 2

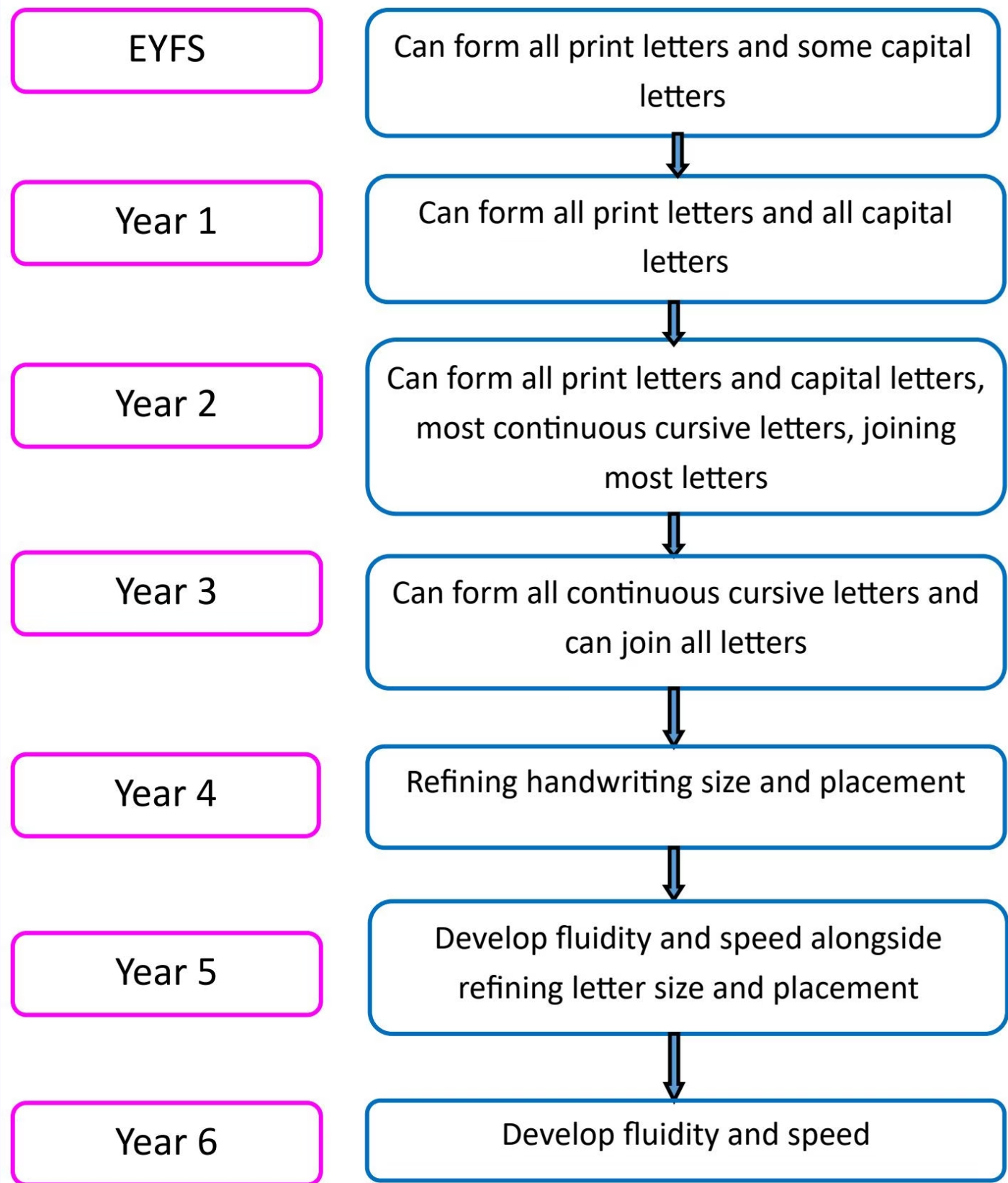
Children will form all print and capital letters correctly with appropriate sizing.

Years 3 & 4

Children will form all continuous cursive letters and can join all letters with increased fluency, refining their handwriting size and placement.

Years 5 & 6

Children will continue to refine their handwriting size and placement, whilst writing with fluidity and speed, maintaining legibility.



EYFS

Can form all print letters and some capital letters

Year 1

Can form all print letters and all capital letters

Year 2

Can form all print letters and capital letters, most continuous cursive letters, joining most letters

Year 3

Can form all continuous cursive letters and can join all letters

Year 4

Refining handwriting size and placement

Year 5

Develop fluidity and speed alongside refining letter size and placement

Year 6

Develop fluidity and speed



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Teaching Approaches

Multi-Sensory

Use sand trays, finger painting, and textured letters. Engage multiple senses for better retention.

Explicit Instruction

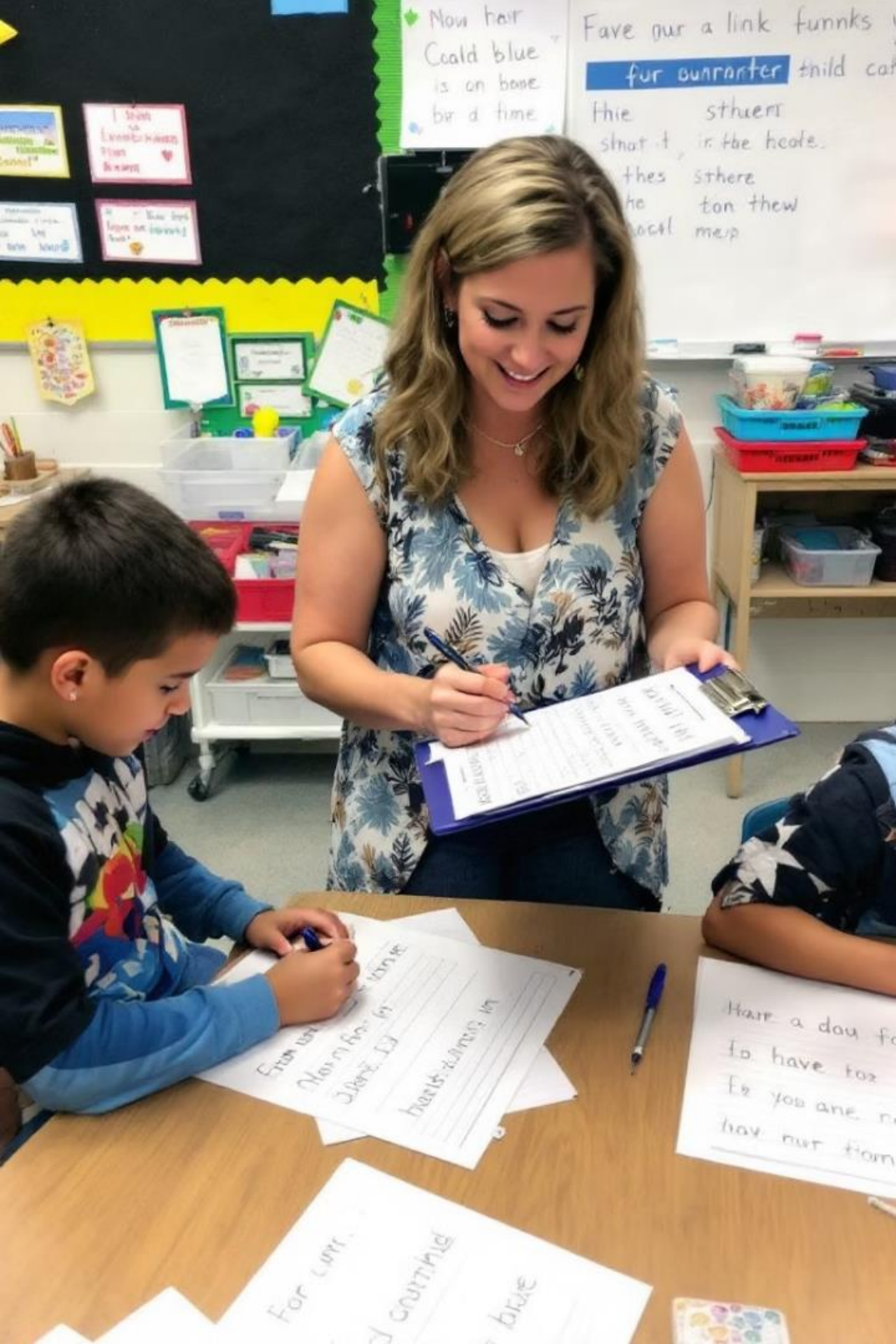
Model correct letter formation. Using the gradual release model, provide clear models, make use of dictation and guided practice.

Progressive Practice

Move from tracing to copying to independent writing. Build skills systematically.

What does good handwriting teaching look like at Heatherlands?

At least one of these focused Activities (see handbook)	Posture Base/Shoulder Stability	Improve the children's core strength.
	Bilateral Coordination/ Crossing The Midline	Improves the children's body awareness and direction.
	Sensory Perception	Focusing on tactile perception and pressure.
	Hand/Wrist and Finger Strength	Exercises that either work on wrist strength, individual finger strength, thumb strength and/or the whole hand.
Sitting and pencil grip	<p>Correct sitting requires good gross motor skills (core strength). Teach the correct way to hold a pencil and maintain good posture using 'Sitting Song' and the poster, allowing the children's arms and hands to move freely and enable the paper to be tilted and positioned correctly.</p> <p>Take into account the individuals gross motor skills when asking them to sit for extended periods of time.</p> <p><i>Use the sitting song to support good writing posture in other lessons.</i></p>	
Letter Formation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Locate and begin the letter at the correct starting point · Follow the directional arrows to enable the correct formation of the letter, with the correct pushes and pulls · Identify if the pencil needs to be lifted from the paper more than once to complete the letter · Recognise the finish point of the letter and stop writing 	
Dictation	<p>Dictate short words/captions/sentences/phrases <i>BASED ON THE LETTERS TAUGHT</i> so far.</p> <p>The children should be focused on the formation of the letters and not the spelling to reduce the cognitive load.</p>	
Assessment	<p>Ongoing in lessons. Using assessment tool, (12) recognise those children that are unable to form the taught letter formation.</p> <p>Children should not move on to the next letter until they have mastered the current.</p>	
Intervention/Catch Up	<p>Interventions should be put in place for those children lacking any of the foundational skills and a program/OT program created for them, before starting to form letters. (13)</p> <p>Children then move on to letters in the same order.</p> <p>Keep up focus-additional sessions and added lessons to ensure children are all moving at a steady pace and mastered the letter formation that is being taught.</p>	



Assessment Strategies



Observation

Watch children write to identify specific difficulties.



Monitoring & analysing

Monitor and analyse outcomes to track progress over time.



Observe key strengths

Use the key strengths assessment record sheet to assess.



Self-Assessment

Teach key stage 2 children how to evaluate their own writing.



Supporting Struggling Writers

Adaptive Tools

Provide pencil grips, slant boards, and specialised paper. Adapt materials to meet individual needs.

Targeted Intervention

Identify specific difficulties. Offer additional practice in small groups or one-on-one.

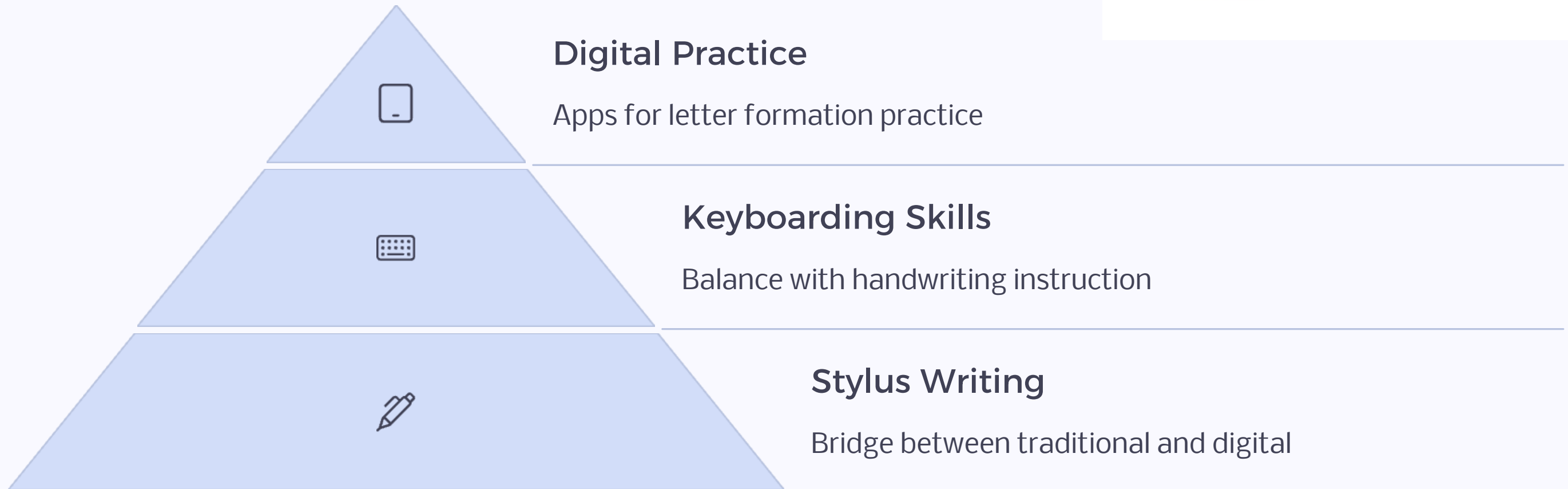
Occupational Therapy

Refer to the OT progression to support children with significant motor difficulties, referring to outside agencies where necessary.

Integrating Technology



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While technology offers valuable tools, handwriting remains essential for cognitive development and learning. Balance digital and traditional approaches for comprehensive skill development.