

Penpals for Handwriting and the Cambridge Primary English Curriculum Framework



This table summarises how Penpals for Handwriting can help you deliver the expectations from the curriculum for English in Stages 1 to 6.

Penpals uses a combination of DVD-ROMS for whole-class teaching and practice books and write-in workbooks for small group and individual work. Our approach has been tried and tested in schools and is proven to drive up handwriting standards.

- Five unique developmental phases provide clear progression for children aged 3 to 11.
- DVD-ROMs support interactive, direct teaching to the whole class using an interactive whiteboard.
- Practice books and Workbooks provide essential practice and reinforcement.
- Links to GPS (Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling) underpin essential learning.
- Sky-writing and lesson warm-ups develop the fine and gross motor skills that are crucial for handwriting.

	Curriculum Framework	*Penpals for Handwriting*
Nursery/ playgroup		Penpals may be used to precede any handwriting scheme and provides ideas and resources for continuous provision and for teacher-led activities in all early years contexts. **Using Penpals Foundation 1 and Foundation 2, children:** • Talk about patterns and shapes in the environment while developing the vocabulary for describing them. • Develop pattern-making skills and basic letter movement through making, modelling, drawing, painting and music. • Develop an ability to recognise all the letters of the alphabet as letters and phonemes and an understanding that capitals and lower-case letters represent the same phonemes. • Practise forming letters and write them in a context (e.g. a simple sentence).
Stage 1	• 1W01 Develop a comfortable and efficient pencil grip. • 1W02 Form letters correctly. • 1W03 Know that a capital letter is used for I, for proper nouns and for the start of a sentence.	**Penpals for Handwriting:** • Supports children to have the correct posture and to experiment with different writing implements to help them find a hold that is comfortable and efficient. • Practises lower-case letter and capital letter formation, with animations to show starting and finishing positions and the direction of movement. • Provides handwriting practice in the context of Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation.

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	Curriculum Framework	*Penpals for Handwriting*
Stage 2	2W02 Practise handwriting patterns and the joining of letters.	**Penpals for Handwriting:** • Introduces and practises joining letter sets. Children begin to join all the letters in a short word or to join letter patterns which can support spelling. They practise the joins and then write them in context (e.g. a simple sentence). • Provides handwriting practice in the context of Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation.
Stage 3	3W01 Ensure consistency in the size and proportion of letters and the spacing of words. 3W02 Practise joining letters in handwriting 3W03 Build up handwriting speed, fluency and legibility.	**Penpals for Handwriting:** • Completes the introduction of joining letter sets. • Provides handwriting practice in the context of Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation. • Begins to focus on letter and word spacing, consistency and fluency.
Stage 4	4W02 Explore the layout and presentation of writing, in the context of helping it to fit its purpose. 4W03 Use joined-up handwriting in all writing.	**Penpals for Handwriting:** • Revises all joining letter sets in the context of fully joined-up writing. • Focuses on adapting handwriting to different purposes and contexts including writing at speed, and using different styles for different purposes.
Stage 5	5W04 Make notes for different purposes, using simple abbreviations and writing 'in your own words'. 5W05 Practise fast, fluent and legible handwriting styles for different purposes.	**Penpals for Handwriting:** • Introduces sloping letters for writing at speed. • Focuses on the development of a fast, fluent and legible style.
Stage 5	6W02 Use handwriting and IT effectively, making appropriate choices of presentation, to prepare writing for publication. 6W03 Develop a personal handwriting style to write legibly, fluently and with increasing speed, choosing the writing implement that is best suited for a task.	**Penpals for Handwriting:** • Focuses on improving children's personal handwriting style for a range of different purposes: note-making, neat writing for presentation, print letters for personal details, presentation, layout and decoration.

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