



HANDWRITING CURRICULUM

Years 5 & 6

STAGE 4: SPEED AND STYLE



The National Curriculum

- Write legibly, fluently and with increasing speed by choosing which shape of a letter to use when given choices and deciding whether or not to join specific letters, and choosing the writing implement that is best suited for a task.

At the start of Stage 4, pupils should be able to produce legible, consistently joined handwriting, maintaining a good standard in their everyday writing. Once joining is secure, children learn about speed and style. They focus on speeding up writing, while maintaining legibility, in order to meet various curriculum demands. Children are encouraged to develop a personal style of handwriting that is fast, fluent and legible, and can be adapted for different purposes and tasks.

Measuring Writing Speed

The table below is a rough guide to average speeds when composing text:

Age	Words per minute (wpm)
9	8
10	10
11	12 - 13

Standards of Handwriting

In Year 5, the focus is on speeding up writing to meet various curriculum demands. Pupils are encouraged to explore new joins to see if they help to increase the speed of their writing. They explore how speed affects the standard of their handwriting and experiment with increasing speed, while retaining legibility.

In Year 6, pupils are encouraged to develop a personal style of handwriting that is fast, fluent, legible and comfortable, and that can be easily adapted to different writing situations. Pupils explore joins from a stylistic point of view, deciding if they improve the fluency and appearance of their writing. They develop their understanding of different standards of handwriting required for different tasks, or at different stages of the writing process. These can be summarised as:

- *Best handwriting* – this takes time and should only be used when there is a clear need for careful, precise, visually pleasing writing.
- *Everyday handwriting* – this should be used for most writing activities, and it should be fluent, easily legible and at an appropriate speed for the task.
- *Fast handwriting* – this is when speed is particularly important. Sometimes a reasonable standard of handwriting is still necessary, even when writing at speed, to ensure easy legibility. Quickest writing is usually only used when the main audience is the writer.

Handwriting Patterns and Presentation

Pupils are encouraged to make decisions about how to present their writing effectively, considering the appearance and visual impact of their writing. As well as different styles of lettering and an appropriate standard of handwriting, they consider how the writing is arranged on the page and how to combine writing and illustration. Pupils are also encouraged to experiment with creating new handwriting patterns and use them to enhance presentation.

Stage 4 To embellish a piece of writing



Writing Stamina

As well as increasing the speed of writing, children also need to develop writing stamina – the ability to write for an extended amount of time without tiring or needing a break. By the end of Key Stage 2, children need to write for a sustained period, or in greater volume in all areas of the curriculum. Pupils are reminded to think about **P checks** before and during writing.