St. Luke's Primary CofE School

At St. Luke's school we use the Nelson scheme of handwriting to ensure progression and consistency across all year groups. This guide is intended to give you more information about how your child will be taught to form and join letters and numbers. This outlines the pace at which the children are expected to progress through the scheme, however, it may be necessary to re-visit areas of the scheme if a child requires more practise.

EYFS & Year 1

Children learn to form individual letters and numbers, starting and finishing in the correct place. Particular focus is given to sitting correctly at the table and holding a pencil correctly. Children will be taught to write all of the lower-case and capital letters and the digits 0-9 with clear and consistent instructions. Children will practice their letter and number formations in Nelson workbooks.

Year 2

In Year 2, Nelson Handwriting revises the previously-learned joins with an emphasis on relative height. Children re-cap their learning of lower-case and capital letters and practise forming them with consistency. Children are also given the opportunity to continue to practise using print letters, and are reminded that some letters are best left unjoined when next to other letters.

Year 3 & 4

Throughout Years 3 and 4, children continue to practise and develop their handwriting skills. The idea of writing with a slant is introduced for the first time. Nelson Handwriting provides practice in joining using diagonal and horizontal strokes as well as the 'break letters' that are best left unjoined. There is an emphasis on spacing letters consistently and on keeping ascenders and descenders in proportion.

Years 5 & 6

At Years 5-6, Nelson Handwriting continues to provide structured practice for the skills that have been developed so far. Children continue to practise the joins and the break letters, looking at consistency of sizing and spacing. Nelson Handwriting empowers children to develop their own style of handwriting from a secure base, choosing their writing implement and style as appropriate to the occasion.