

Improvement in Schools

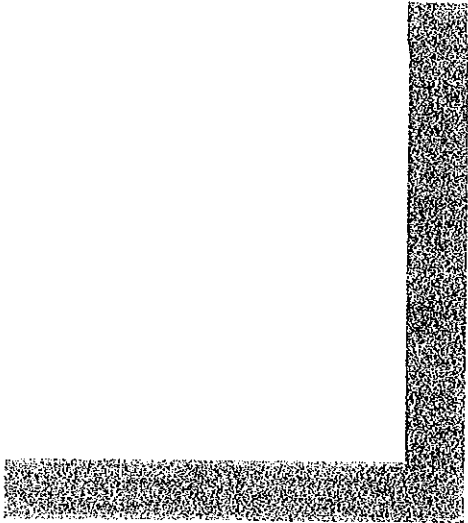
ISHA

through

Handwriting and Art

Achieving Excellence In Handwriting

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ISHA 0WMH0515

The Handwriting Style

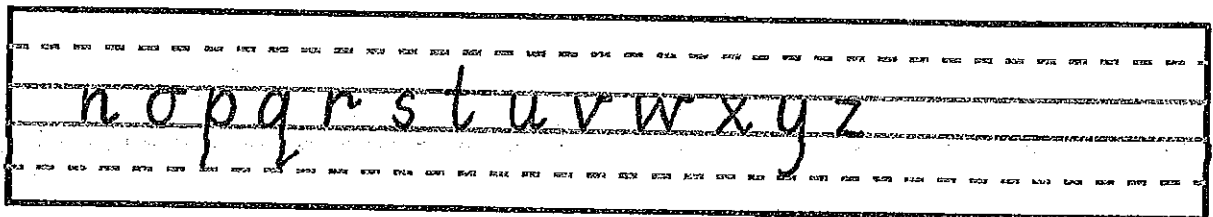
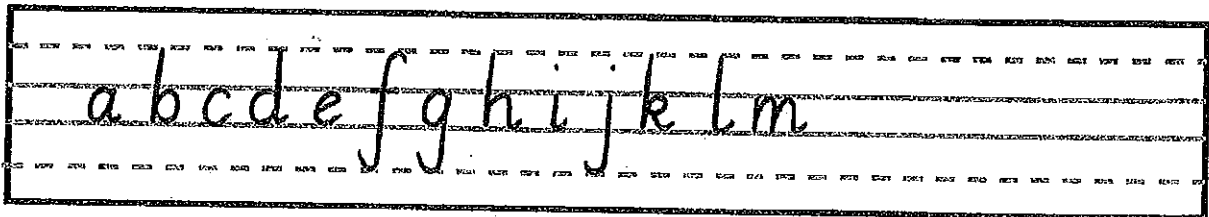
The handwriting style used in this booklet is based on a semi-cursive style. It is simplistic, but very clear, and it does not have the 'loops' or 'lead ins' which are features of more complex handwriting styles.

The style is relatively simple to teach and relatively simple to learn. However, like all handwriting styles, it is only as good as the way that it is taught.

(Handwriting style in printed form)

It is vital that teacher modelling is good, teaching language is appropriate and teachers have a clear understanding of how to structure a handwriting lesson and have effective strategies to use. These are of greater importance than the actual handwriting style itself.

(Handwriting style in joined form)



a b c d e f g h i j k l m
n o p q r s t u v w x y z

i l t j

Lower Case Letter Formation

Family 1. The Straight Line Family

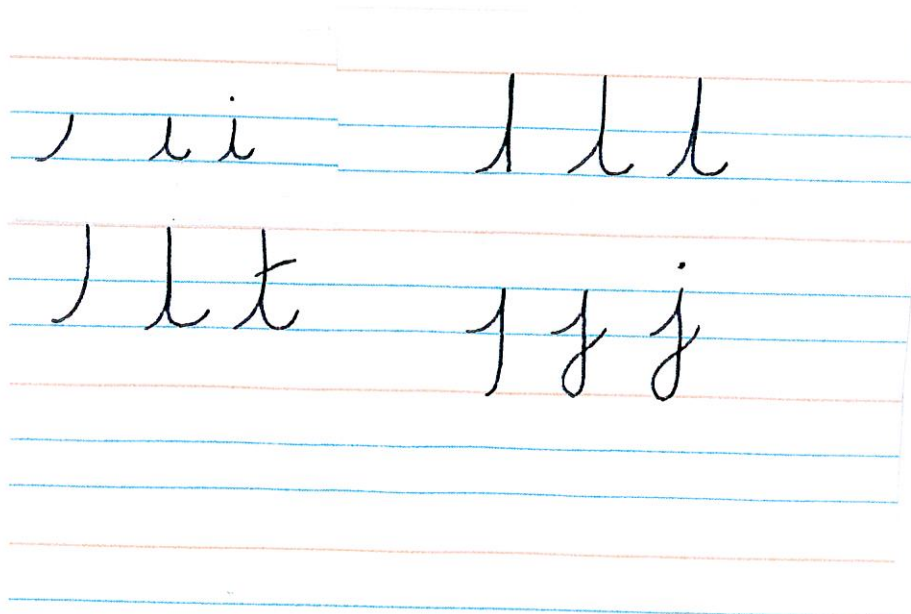
i l t j letters based on a single vertical line



i l t j

The letters *i* and *j* begin at the top solid line. The letter *l* begins at the top broken line. The tail on *j* goes down to the bottom broken line and ends with a gentle curve. The *i* and *l* touch the bottom solid line, before lifting diagonally to the right. This is the connection to the following letter.

The *t* is smaller than the *l* but taller than the *i*. It is a "three quarter sized" letter—"a Teenager t". It begins just above the top solid line. It is crossed on the top solid line, with more of the cross to the right of the down stroke. Like the *i* and *l* its joining line lifts diagonally in a North Easterly direction.



c o a d g q e

Lower Case Letter Formation

Family 2. The Coathanger Family

c o a d g q e letters based on a c shape

c o a d g q e

c o a d g q

These letters are oval rather than circular.

The letters begin with a "coat hanger" shape.

Begin just below the top solid line. The first movement of the writing tool is up to the line, then over and down. On reaching the bottom solid line, it is necessary to go diagonally upwards and across to the right, in order to make an oval shape.

r c c r c o

r c a r c d d

r c g g r c q q

c o a d g q e

Lower Case Letter Formation

Family 2. The Coathanger Family

c o a d g q e letters based on a c shape

Handwriting practice lines with a small 'e' on the second line.

e

e

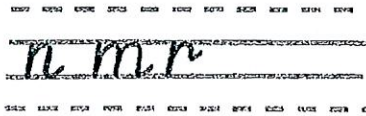
Handwriting practice lines with the letters 'l e e' written on the second line.

n h m r b p k

Lower Case Letter Formation

Family 3. The Bridge Family

m n r h b k p letters that have a vertical down stroke followed by a diagonal movement to the right.



n m r

These letters begin with a vertical down stroke, followed by a vertical up stroke, then have a diagonal movement to the right, which begins mid-way between the two solid lines.

The letters n, m and r reach the top solid line.

m and n should have narrow "bridges".

Handwriting practice lines showing the formation of lowercase letters n, m, and r. The first row shows the letters n, m, and r formed on a set of three horizontal lines. The second row shows the letters n, m, and r formed on a set of three horizontal lines. The third row shows the letters n, m, and r formed on a set of three horizontal lines. The fourth row shows the letters n, m, and r formed on a set of three horizontal lines. The fifth row shows the letters n, m, and r formed on a set of three horizontal lines. The sixth row shows the letters n, m, and r formed on a set of three horizontal lines. The seventh row shows the letters n, m, and r formed on a set of three horizontal lines. The eighth row shows the letters n, m, and r formed on a set of three horizontal lines. The ninth row shows the letters n, m, and r formed on a set of three horizontal lines. The tenth row shows the letters n, m, and r formed on a set of three horizontal lines.

n h m r b p k

Lower Case Letter Formation

Family 3. The Bridge Family Contd..

m n r h b k p letters that have a vertical down stroke followed by a diagonal movement to the right.



h b k p

These letters begin with a vertical down stroke, followed by a vertical up stroke, then have a diagonal movement to the right, which begins mid-way between the two solid lines.

The letters h, b and k are tall letters so start at the top solid line. The letter k is a 'shoelace' k to enable it to join to other letters and to distinguish it from the capital K.

The letter p is a tail letter so starts at the top solid line and reaches down to the bottom broken line.

l l h

l h b b

l r k k k

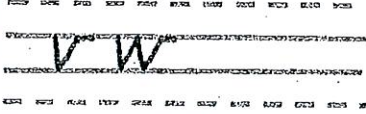
l r p p

v w

Lower Case Letter Formation

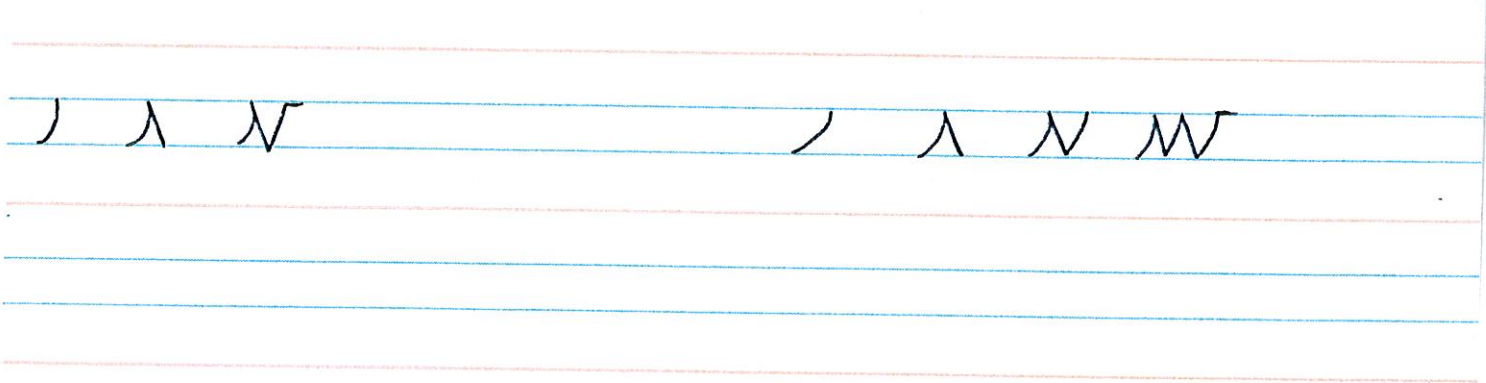
Family 4. The Zig Zag Family

v w are placed together as a pair.



v w

Both start on the top solid line, have a diagonal downward stroke and have a joining mark that sits on the top solid line.

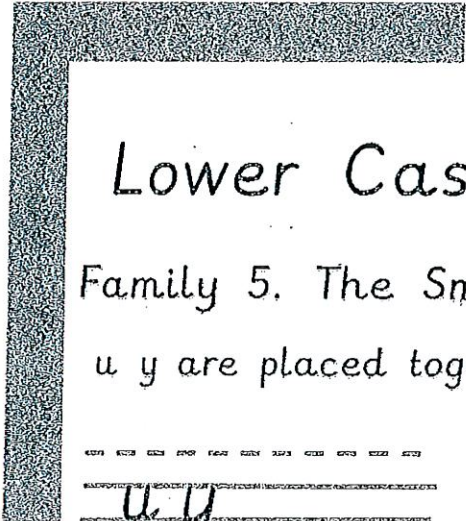


u y

Lower Case Letter Formation

Family 5. The Smile Family

u y are placed together as a pair.



u y

u y

Both start on the top solid line, begin with a downward stroke, curve back up to the top solid line and then down to the bottom solid line. The letter y is a tail letter that extends down to the bottom broken line and ends with a gentle curve that sits on the line.

Handwriting practice lines showing the formation of the letters 'u' and 'y'. The first row shows the stroke order for 'u' (1, 2, 3, 4) and 'y' (1, 2, 3, 4). The second row shows the letters 'u' and 'y' written on the lines.

s f x z

Lower Case Letter Formation

Family 6. The Misfits!

s f x z letters that are unique and individual and do not fit with any other letter groups.

s f x z

The s and f both begin with an "up and over" movement, in the same way as the letters in the coathanger family, based on the c shape.

The f is crossed like the t, however unlike the t the cross bar on the f is the joining stroke. The cross bar sits on the top solid line. The f is both a tall and a tail letter.

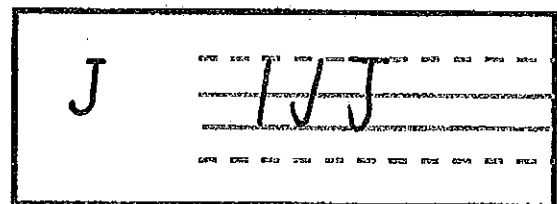
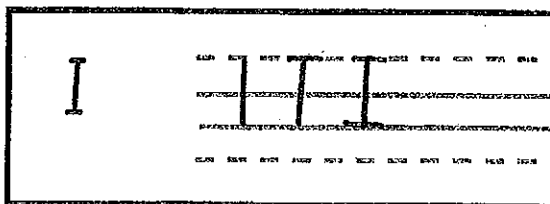
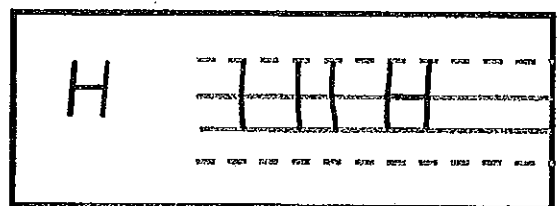
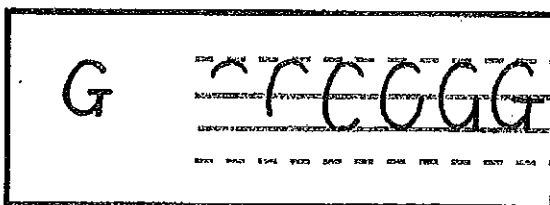
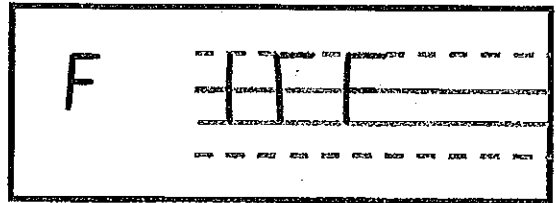
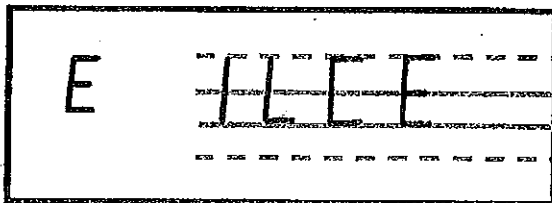
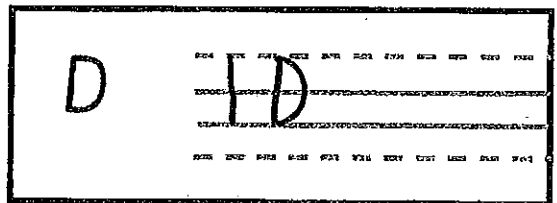
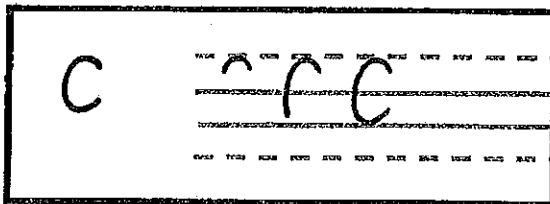
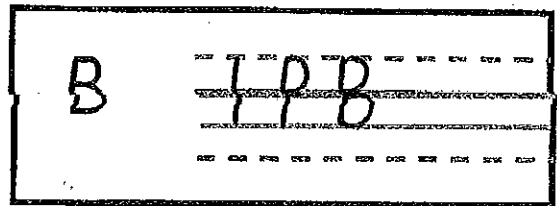
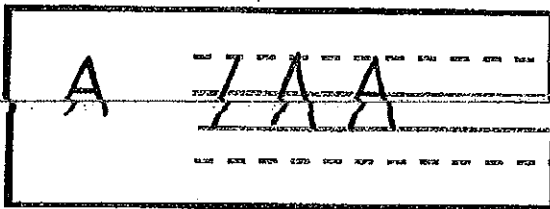
The s x and z should be the same width at the top and bottom of the letter.

The x joins on to the next letter with a diagonal joining stroke. When joining other letters should be crossed at the end of the word as with the letter t.

s f x z

Upper Case Letter Formation

These should be taught as tall letters in size. They do not join on to the letter which follows.



Upper Case Letter Formation

K K K

L L L

M M M

N N N

O O O

P P P

Q Q Q

R R R

S S S

T T T

U U U

V V V

Upper Case Letter Formation

W

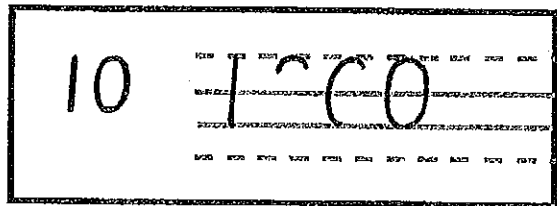
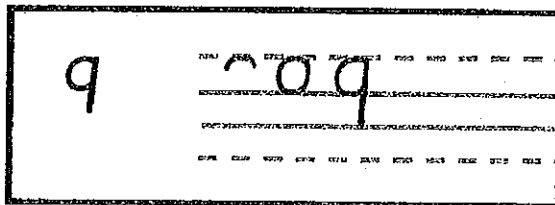
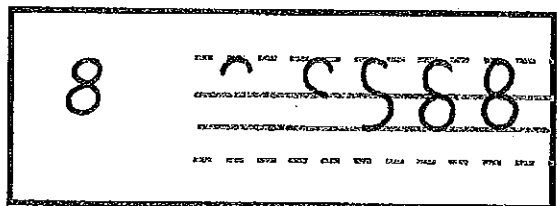
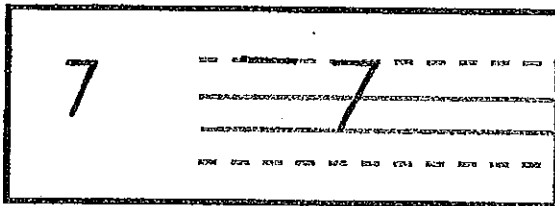
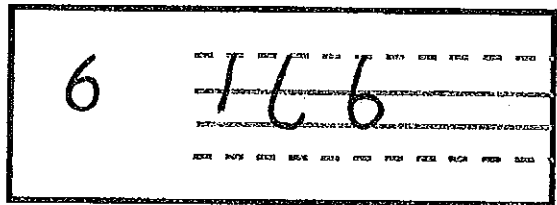
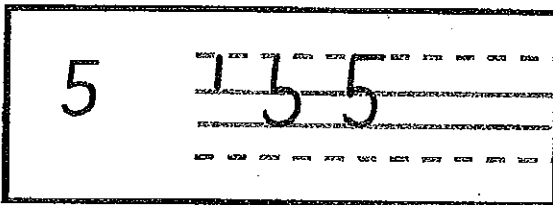
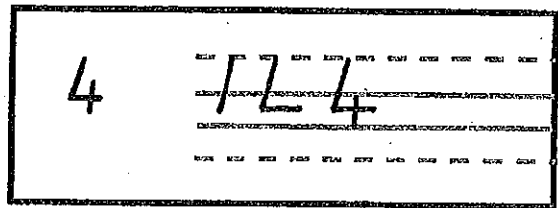
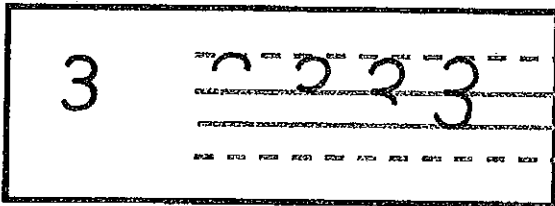
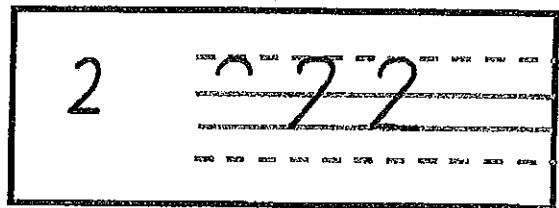
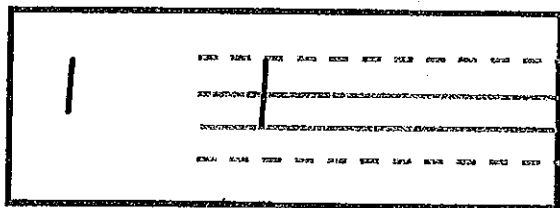
X

Y

Z

Number Formation

Numbers can be drawn using the lineguides in a very similar way to letters. All numbers should be regarded as the same size as tall letters, therefore they start on the top broken line and sit on the bottom solid line. The lineguide gives structure to their formation within.



Key Stage 1

Programme of Lessons

Warm Up Examples.

Below are line guide exercises to ensure children fully understand the correct size of small letters, tall letters and tail letters. They are exercises that can be used regularly as a warm up to a handwriting lesson. The three straight lines are referred to as short, tall and tail lines.

