

## HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD?

-  **Make it fun.**  
*Ask your child to use cursive handwriting to write shopping lists, thank you letters, party invites, a diary, leave notes for each other.*
-  **Get creative.**  
*Don't stick to practising on paper; you can trace them in the air, in sand or on another person's back with your finger. You could also try using chalks on the path or patio.*
-  **Check the grip.**  
*It's important that the pad of the thumb connects with the pencil; if the side or tip of the thumb touches, it closes up the hand and restricts the flow of movement.*
-  **Create patterns.**  
*Practising patterns of joined up letters (such as a string of connected 'c's).*
-  **Pencil control.**  
*Encourage your child to do other non-writing activities to improve their fine hand control, such as colouring and dot-to-dot puzzles.*
-  **Practice Sheets.**  
*Use handwriting worksheets that show letter formation (Dots show starting points and arrows show the direction of movement)..*
-  **Sit up straight!**  
*Many children like to do their homework lying on the floor but please don't let them! Good quality handwriting can only be achieved with a correct sitting position.*
-  **Give them time and praise.**  
*Make writing fun and positive, give praise where it's due, and don't hover over them – they need time to fully develop their skills.*

## HELPFUL INFORMATION

Somerford Primary School is a member of the National Handwriting Association.

<http://www.nha-handwriting.org.uk/>

On their website you can access information to support with your child's handwriting.

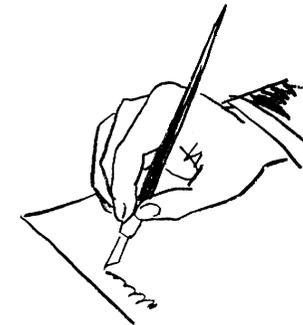
They also provide useful information on how to support your child with their writing if they are left-handed.

**Please contact your child's class teacher or Mrs Hudson, if you are concerned about your child's handwriting or you require any further information.**



# Handwriting

A guide  
for parents



2017 - 2018

This leaflet explains why and how we teach handwriting at Somerford Primary School. It also includes ideas on ways in which you can help to develop your child's handwriting.

At Somerford our handwriting policy aims to:

-  Raise standards in writing across the school.
-  Develop a consistent approach across both Key Stage One and Two when teaching handwriting and presenting work throughout the school.
-  Achieve a neat, legible style with correctly formed letters in cursive handwriting style.
-  Develop flow and speed whilst writing, so that eventually the children are able to write the letters with confidence and correct orientation

Although we provide many opportunities to practise handwriting across the curriculum, we also provide regular sessions for teaching and revising handwriting skills. The frequency and length of these sessions will vary according to the age and skill of the children.

### Cranborne Cursive Handwriting Style

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

We use the Cranborne Cursive Style of handwriting at Somerford Primary School. This style joins all letters except for capital letters.

Every letter has a "lead in" stroke and a "lead out" stroke, which means that letters can be joined as soon as a child has learned two or three letters.

All letters start from the line, making it easier to remember the directional flow of writing. It also means that all letters and words have the same starting point.

This 'starting point' is particularly beneficial for children whose writing tends to drift over lines.

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All children are provided with a school pencil to write with until they have earned their 'Pen Licence'. Once they are consistently showing a neat, legible, correctly joined style, they will be rewarded with their 'Pen Licence' certificate in Assembly and given their own fountain pen to write with at school. This can be awarded at any age.

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Research has confirmed the natural link between spelling and handwriting. Handwriting can be used to help your child with their mastery of common spelling rules and develop both a visual and hand memory of spelling patterns.

### Correct Holds and Positions

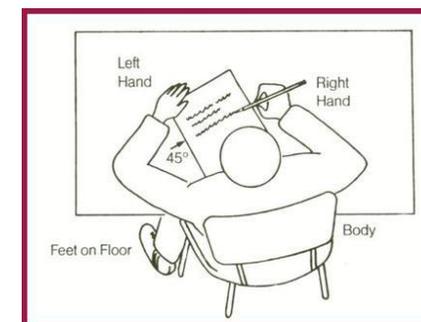
It is important that children hold their pencil correctly and ensure that their sitting position is correct.

#### Pencil Hold:



#### Sitting position:

- Feet flat on the floor.
- Head up, not resting on the desk or hand.
- Paper at the correct angle.
- Spare hand steadies the paper.



Use the opposite way round for left-handed writers.