

Shoreham Village School

Handwriting policy

Handwriting is an important skill which is required of the learner in school and in everyday situations and it attracts praise for those who are good at it. It also, very importantly, the means by which we learn, especially literacy.

Aim

- Our aim is that the children at Shoreham Village School will be able to write clearly, fluently and quickly so that they can cope with everyday demands of life and school. The children are taught the conventional ways of forming letter shapes, both lower case and capital letters through purposeful practice in order to foster a comfortable and legible handwriting style.
- In order to help raise attainment for all pupils we have a consistent approach to the teaching of handwriting throughout the school.
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*For agreed **letter formation** see separate sheets (**Appendix A**) and **exemplars in the classroom***

Why cursive writing?

- This style aids left to right movement; each letter begins on the left and moves towards the right, towards the next letter and in the same direction as reading
- Each new letter shape is taught together with the name and sound(s) and multisensory connections are made. (Auditory / visual / oral kinaesthetic and manual kinaesthetic)
- Spacing is improved and words are seen as separate, whole units
- Letters which are similar in print, and are confusable, become more distinctive and distinguishable
- Joined writing is speedier than printing
- Once a secure cursive style has been established the learner can worry less about where to place his pen and in which direction to move it, and think more about the purpose and content of his writing; getting his ideas into print.
- Spellings learnt in joined writing are more stable and letters are less likely to be transposed; common letter strings flow from the learner's hand.

Learners are taught two basic rules for learning new letters:

- *Every letter begins on the line*
- *Every letter has a lead in and lead out stroke*

Progression

Reception

- The focus is on correct letter formation as this is very important. All letters will be addressed during the year. Lead ins and lead outs will be taught from the