



## Sedbergh Primary School

### Handwriting - Information Sheet for Parents

Children need to reach an acceptable standard of legibility and presentation so that they can communicate effectively in writing. Our aim is to teach handwriting so that pupils can develop a comfortable and legible style for their work and have the necessary skills and speed to meet the demands of the KS3 curriculum when they leave our school.

We also recognise that handwriting skills can affect a pupil's self-esteem and our teaching approach is therefore positive and supportive, as well as determined.

The letters are taught in a style known as 'cursive script' so that the transition to joined handwriting is as straightforward as possible.

Each letter begins on the line.

A lot of time is spent in school teaching and practising correct letter formation, but bad habits can creep in at any time.

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

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

## How can parents help?

When your child is writing at home, encourage him/her to be as neat as possible by:

- Checking that the pencil or pen is being held properly. The grip should be relaxed, but allowing for proper control. The pencil should be held between the thumb and the forefinger with the pencil resting on the third finger. The thumb and forefinger should be able to move slightly to allow the fine motor control required for writing.
- The left-handed child should be encouraged to allow the pencil or pen to sit in the V between the thumb and the forefinger, lying parallel to the thumb and to hold it a little further from the point s approximately 1.5 cm away. The wrist should be straight
- Having a sharp pencil or, by Yr4, a blue or black ink, gel or fibre tipped pen that encourages a smooth flow. Left-handers may need help in selecting a pen or pencil which moves smoothly across the paper as they have a tendency to push rather than pull the writing tool across the paper. A softer B or HB pencil, fibre tip, roller ball or reverse oblique nibbed ink pen may be helpful.
- Making sure that your child sits so that their feet are firmly on the floor and their arms rest comfortably on the table. There should be space for knees and thighs between the seat and the writing surface. Left-handed children may need to experiment with seat height and to use a higher seat in order to view their work clearly and to prevent their elbow locking into their side as they work across the paper. They need to sit so that their left arm has plenty of room.
- Checking that the paper is slightly to the child's right and either vertically positioned or tilted slightly upwards and away from them. A left-handed writer has the paper positioned to the left of the body midline and the right hand corners of the paper tilted nearer to the body.
- Checking that the paper is held steady by the non-writing hand which will also take some of their body weight. Left-handers tend to obscure what they have written by placing their right hand beneath the words they write so encourage them to place it in the middle or towards the right of their paper, rather than beneath their line of writing.

Occasionally, children find neat handwriting very difficult to master and teachers will provide extra support. If homework is given, please could you help to make sure that it is done. Short, but regular sessions are best, with plenty of encouragement for progress made.

If you have concerns about your child's handwriting, please discuss them with the class teacher.