



*Supporting*

*your child with*

*Handwriting*



*The purpose of this booklet is to inform you of the school's handwriting policy and to provide you with information which will enable you to support your child at home.*

Handwriting is an essential skill which, like reading and spelling, affects written communication across the curriculum.

The teaching handwriting at Castleton will be closely linked with the learning of phonic and spelling strategies and taught as a movement skill. We believe that a developed joined handwriting style can assist with spelling, as the movements of the hand when writing are firmly established in movement memory because they have been made so often.

Children will be taught to use a cursive style right from the start and will be taught in ways appropriate for their age and ability. From the beginning the children are encouraged to think of the following:

- Keep your halfway letters within the shaded area – the trees
- Make your tall letters rise above the shaded area into the sky
- Make your letters with tails fall below the shaded area – underneath the ground

By year 2 all children will be encouraged to join their letters most of the time.



Handwriting will be taught alongside phonics or spelling sessions and in the early years as the children are learning their letter sounds. This gives the teaching a purpose and meaning to the children and aids the learning of spelling patterns.



### HOW CAN I HELP?

**First of all** you can encourage your child to hold their pen/pencil correctly; thumb and forefinger gripping the pencil and middle finger supporting.

**Secondly** make it **fun!**

Below are examples of activities that you could do with your child as appropriate to their age and ability:

- Air writing (imaginary letters or words in the air)
- Writing on a partner's back (partner feels for the correct pattern in letters or words)
- Sand writing (letters or words in sand or loose dirt)
- Paint writing (on an easel or outside on fences or playground using water)
- Leaf writing (shuffle feet in fallen leaves to make letters or words)
- Chalk writing
- Tracing letters/words written on paper
- Copying letters/words written on paper
- Independently translating printed text into cursive handwriting script.