

At St.Leonard's, we teach the cursive handwriting style. This writing style minimizes confusion for pupils as every letter starts on the line with an entry stroke and leads out of the letter with an exit stroke and most letters (except capitals) will join to another. The main benefit is that children tend to reach fluency more quickly and can ultimately write at a faster speed. Also, with the flow of cursive handwriting, letters naturally flow into each other and children can develop a muscle memory of the movements used to form each word. This encourages good spelling and neat handwriting, without thinking about how to form each letter. At St.Leonard's, we believe this will raise standards in children's books, developing confidence, accuracy and fluency.

The benefits of cursive handwriting:

- Letters are produced with a flowing movement which helps develop a physical memory of how each letter is written.
- All letters start in the same place on the line and flow from left to right. This reduces the likelihood of reversal mix-ups such as b/d and p/q.
- Writing becomes quicker and easier because of the smooth flow.
- This smooth flow improves speed and spelling.
- The British Dyslexia Association recommends cursive writing.
- There is a clearer distinction between capital and lower case letters.

It is also important that when your child practices handwriting, they have an accurate grip which is not too far towards the point of the pencil. Left handed children will find that they can hold a pencil in exactly the same way as a right handed child if they simply turn their page to a 45 degree angle. They will then be able to see what they are writing rather than covering it with their hand or adjusting their grip which will make it harder to write fluently.

Below are links to PowerPoint Presentation videos that pupils can use to practice the cursive handwriting style at home. The cursive letters are taught following the sounds we teach in Phonics starting with phase 2 and then phase 3.