



# Handwriting in the Early Years

September 2014



*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 of handwriting in St. Mary's will be closely linked with the teaching of phonics and spelling strategies. Children in our school will practise handwriting frequently, starting in Early Years, and up to, and including Year 6.

By Year 2 all children will be expected to be joining their letters most of the time and joins will be introduced in Year 1 only once children are forming all letters correctly.

I have attached a sheet to show the correct formation of spelling.



## HOW CAN YOU HELP AT HOME?

**Please** encourage your child to hold their pen/pencil correctly; thumb and forefinger gripping the pencil and middle finger supporting.



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)
- Using playdough to form letters (recipe attached)
- 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.

