



Curriculum Overview Statement: English - Phonics

Intent

Our Phonics curriculum, delivered through the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised scheme, is designed to build confident, fluent readers and writers by developing strong foundations in early language. We believe that secure phonics knowledge is essential for children to unlock reading, communicate clearly, and develop a lifelong love of books and storytelling.

Through daily, systematic and progressive phonics teaching, pupils learn to recognise sounds, blend to read, and segment to spell. This structured approach ensures that all children, including those who may need additional support, are given the tools to succeed. We celebrate the joy of reading and create an environment where pupils feel encouraged to take risks, practise new skills, and develop resilience as they grow in confidence.

We promote an inclusive culture of active participation, careful listening and respectful talk, where pupils are supported to share their thinking and use language purposefully. As children become more fluent readers, they develop their ability to explore texts, discuss ideas, and begin to understand the world through a range of voices and perspectives.

By embedding our core values of community, compassion and courage, our Phonics curriculum supports pupils to become confident learners who can read with accuracy, write with increasing independence, and express themselves with pride. Through Little Wandle, we equip children with the essential building blocks for success across the curriculum and beyond, helping them to become capable, engaged and enthusiastic readers and communicators.

Speaking, listening and communication: learn to - learn through - learn about.

Implementation

At our school, phonics is taught through the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised programme. This systematic, structured approach ensures consistency, progression and clarity in the teaching of early reading and spelling across EYFS and KS1. Lessons are carefully planned to build secure foundations in phoneme recognition, blending, segmenting and grapheme knowledge, enabling children to become confident and fluent readers.

Phonics is taught daily in short, focused sessions by trained staff. Each lesson follows the Little Wandle structure, allowing children to revisit and practise previously taught sounds, learn new grapheme-phoneme correspondences, and apply their learning through reading and spelling activities. This consistent routine supports rapid recall, builds confidence and ensures children are able to keep up with the pace of the programme.

A strong focus is placed on the teaching of blending for reading and segmenting for spelling, ensuring children understand how phonics supports both reading and writing. Children are taught to use the correct vocabulary, including phoneme, grapheme, digraph, trigraph, blending and segmenting, so they can talk about their learning clearly and confidently.



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Growing Together, Guided by Love

Reading practice is closely matched to the phonics children have been taught. Pupils take part in three weekly reading practice sessions, using fully decodable Little Wandle books. These sessions focus on developing accuracy, fluency, prosody and comprehension, ensuring children can apply their phonics learning successfully. Books are then sent home so children can reread them with confidence and develop reading stamina.

Assessment for learning is embedded throughout phonics teaching. Teachers use daily observation, regular review and Little Wandle assessment tools to identify children who may need additional support. Where required, pupils receive targeted Keep-up interventions that are timely, consistent and closely matched to classroom teaching, ensuring that every child is supported to make strong progress.

Impact

Ultimately, our goal is for every child to leave Key Stage 1 as a fluent, confident reader who not only enjoys reading but reads with accuracy, pace and understanding. We want pupils to be able to apply their phonics knowledge independently in both reading and writing, using secure decoding and spelling skills as the foundation for success across the wider curriculum. Alongside this, we aim to develop children's oracy so they can talk about texts, explain their thinking, and share ideas clearly and respectfully, building the confidence to communicate effectively in a range of contexts.