



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Jarrow
English Curriculum Rationale (Phonics)
2022/23



Phonics

Implementation

At St. Joseph's, early reading is taught using a systematic synthetic approach through the Sounds Write programme. Our children begin their reading journey as soon as they enter our Nursery. We recognise the importance of developing children's speaking and listening skills at the very beginning. Teachers in our Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception) ensure they plan ample opportunities for our children to become attuned to the sounds around them in both our indoor and outdoor learning spaces. This is where we lay the foundations for the blending and segmenting phonic work to come. Daily time is allocated to the teaching of phonics in our school in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. All children access whole group phonic sessions with bespoke sessions offered within small intervention groups. The lessons follow the same teaching sequence in every group: revisiting previous learning, acquiring new learning about phonic sounds and finally practising and applying. At the early stages of reading, decodable reading materials are matched to the learner's phonics knowledge as they build phoneme/grapheme correspondence. Children develop the skill of blending the sounds into words for reading and establish the habit of applying this skill whenever they encounter new words. Teachers give pupils sufficient practice to embed these skills in reading and re-reading books they know, both at school and at home. Our children are encouraged to make use of phonic strategies when taking part in all reading and writing activities throughout the curriculum. Half-termly phonics assessments inform teachers of progress and give opportunities to reorganise groups being taught. The Year 1 Phonics Screening Check allows us to identify each individual child's progress, making sure they are on track to become fluent readers who can enjoy reading for pleasure and for learning. Children in lower Key Stage 2 who did not pass the Phonics Screening Check in Key Stage 1 will remain on the Sounds Write programme and access small group interventions to further develop their word reading and fluency. Opportunities for CPD throughout the year ensure our staff are equipped with the most relevant curriculum updates and feel confident in their planning and delivery of phonics throughout the school.

Impact

We believe our children will: Demonstrate a clear understanding of phoneme/grapheme correspondence Use their knowledge of sounds to decode new words that they hear or see Use and apply all of their phonic knowledge to achieve a pass mark in the Phonics Screening Check Develop their skills in order to read any kind of text fluently and accurately Confidently apply their phonic knowledge when reading and writing in all areas of the curriculum.