



INTENT

Ensure all children become fluent, confident, and independent readers, irrespective of their context or starting point.

Expose pupils to diverse and multicultural reading experiences, challenging their reading strategies.

Develop reading fluency through explicit practice and a curriculum that blends the science of reading with effective teaching.

Emphasise evidence-led research in a curriculum that is ambitious and rich in knowledge and vocabulary.

Cultivate a love for reading with high-quality texts, decoding skills, phonics, and a strong knowledge base.

Encourage encounters with varied vocabulary, develop comprehension strategies, support metacognition, and foster lifelong learning.

IMPLEMENTATION

Phonics Solid phonological awareness underpins reading. If a child's understanding of phonics is weak, we continue focusing on phonics. Even if their grasp never reaches a high standard, every small step forward is a significant advantage.

Fluency

Fluency bridges phonics and comprehension and must be explicitly taught. It involves automaticity (reading quickly), accuracy (reading correctly), and prosody (reading with natural rhythm). In our sessions, the teacher reads short extracts aloud, including echo and choral reading. Children read the same extract to a partner, switch roles, and repeat 3-4 times. Challenging texts push children's skills further. Children perform the text for accountability. Key vocabulary is introduced at the start, with questions and discussions at the end to establish meaning. Repeated oral reading, especially in pairs with slightly difficult texts, helps achieve fluency, ensuring children read with confidence and understanding.

Close Reading

Close reading sessions involve children reading short to moderate-length texts step-by-step, with questions and discussions interspersed throughout. This in-depth approach allows for thorough analysis and understanding of the text's meaning. The session is balanced with one-third reading and two-thirds discussion, ensuring that children actively engage with and critically think about the material.

Comprehension and Inference

While reading strategies can boost comprehension, their long-term impact is limited. Therefore, our focus is on building vocabulary, background knowledge, and understanding sentence and text structure. By selecting a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts, we help children develop a broad understanding of written English and the world around them.

Extended Reading

Extended reading sessions focus on longer texts, with most of the time dedicated to reading. Children take turns reading aloud, or read silently and chorally in short, echo bursts once fluent. Vocabulary is introduced briefly by the teacher as the text is read. Throughout the session, questions and discussions help to establish meaning, maintaining a balance of two-thirds reading and one-third discussion. This approach ensures deep engagement with the text and a thorough understanding of its content.

Independent Reading

Children need to read independently and often to build knowledge and vocabulary. Imprinting a love for independent reading in non-fluent readers is challenging but essential.

Spelling Patterns and Morphology

Teaching spelling patterns and morphology is crucial for reading development. This includes understanding the structure of words and their meanings. By incorporating these elements into our daily reading sessions, we aim to develop fluent, knowledgeable, and enthusiastic readers.

The drivers of our Reading Curriculum are aligned to the wider intent of the Curriculum Pillars.

