



Our Lady's approach to the teaching of phonics

In Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Primary School phonics is taught daily in Early Years and Key Stage 1 using the Read, Write, Inc validated scheme. The school's shared vision is that every pupil learns to read quickly and continues to read – widely and often.

In Read Write Inc. Phonics pupils:

- Decode letter-sound correspondences quickly and effortlessly, using their phonic knowledge and skills
- Read common exception words on sight
- Understand what they read
- Read aloud with fluency and expression
- Apply their phonics skills in writing at word and sentence level.
- Reinforce their handwriting skills (which is taught in discreet daily sessions using the Kinetic Letters scheme)



In addition, we teach pupils to work effectively with a partner to explain and consolidate what they are learning. This provides the teacher with opportunities to assess learning and to pick up on difficulties, such as pupils' poor articulation, or problems with blending or alphabetic code knowledge.

We group pupils homogeneously, according to their progress in reading rather than their writing. This is because it is known that pupils' progress in writing will lag behind progress in reading, especially for those whose motor skills are less well developed.

We make sure that pupils read books that are closely matched to their increasing knowledge of phonics and the common exception words. This is so that, early on, they experience success and gain confidence that they are readers. Re-reading and discussing these books with the teacher supports their increasingly fluent decoding.

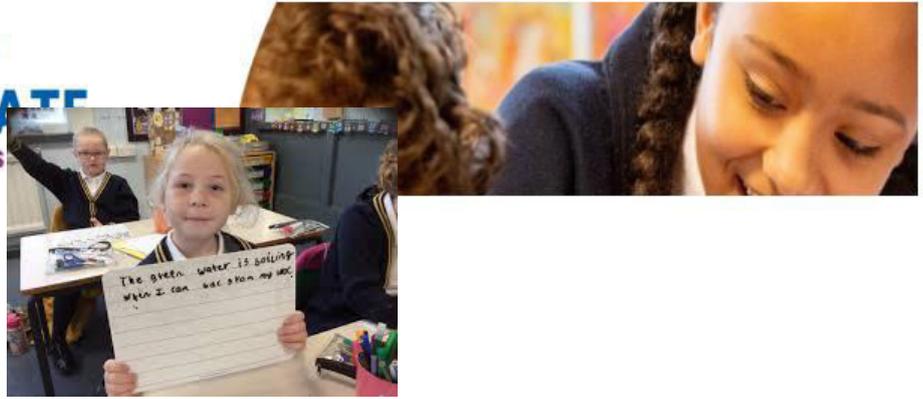


Assessment:

- Reading teachers use formative assessment on a daily basis to monitor the progress children are making. Special attention is given to the 'spotlight' children.
- Children's progress in phonics is formally assessed half termly and children are regrouped accordingly.
- The phonics leader allocates staff to groups strategically to ensure the children who need the most support have the most experienced and skilled reading teachers.
- Children in Key Stage 2 who still require phonics are taught by a trained member of staff and assessed in the same way.
- When children arrive new to the school a RWI assessment is completed.

The reading leader's roles include: -

- ensuring that our teaching of reading is of the highest quality and that all our pupils make progress
- ensuring pupils in the 'lower progress' group are making good progress and liaising with the Inclusion manager to organise one-to-one tutoring for the pupils who need extra support
- keeping the groups homogeneous, i.e. at the same reading level
- providing further training (through masterclasses, coaching/ observation and face-to-face feedback)



Our aim is for pupils to complete the phonics programme as quickly as possible. The sooner they complete it, the sooner they will be able to choose books to read at their own interest and comprehension level. When children have completed the RWI phonics programme they move onto the RWI spelling programme and begin to take home books from the book band system.