

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Read Write Inc. Phonics Policy



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Person/s responsible: Mrs C Beech

Introduction:

At St Joseph's we use Read Write Inc Phonics (RWI) to give your child the best possible start with their reading. Children who read regularly or are read to regularly have the opportunity to open the doors to so many different worlds! More importantly, reading will give your child the tools to become independent life-long learners.

We can achieve this together through:

- Read Write Inc, a program to help to your child learn to read at school
- Encouraging children to develop a love of books by reading to them daily, at home and at school
- Giving children access to a wide range of books at school and at home, that are not only matched to their phonic reading ability but also books they can read for pleasure.

Mrs Beech and Mrs Dawes are our Read Write Inc lead teachers, so if you have questions about RWI, contact school who can refer you to her. Please take the time to read this information as it provides invaluable information as to how we teach early reading and phonics to our children.

What is Read Write Inc?

Read Write Inc (RWI) is a phonics complete literacy programme which helps all children learn to read fluently and at speed so they can focus on developing their skills in comprehension, vocabulary and spelling. The programme is designed for children aged 4-7. However, at St Joseph's we begin the programme in Nursery and will continue teaching RWI to children beyond the age of 7 if they still need support in their reading. RWI was developed by Ruth Miskin and more information on this can be found at <https://ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/>.

Aims and Objectives

The RWI scheme aims to teach children to:

- Apply the skills of blending phonemes to read words
- Learn that blending and segmenting words is a reversible process
- Read high frequency words that do not conform to regular phonic patterns
- Read texts and words that are within their phonic capabilities as early as possible
- Decode texts effortlessly so all their resources can then be used to comprehend what they are reading - Spell effortlessly so that all their resources can then be directed towards composing their writing.

Teaching and Learning Style

Read Write Inc is based on 5 P's which all trained staff endeavour to use:

Praise - Children learn quickly in a positive climate.

Pace - Good pace is essential to the lesson.

Purpose - Every part of the lesson has a specific purpose.

Passion - This is a very prescriptive programme. It is the energy, enthusiasm and passion that teachers put into the lesson that bring the teaching and learning to life!

Participation - A strong feature of RWI lessons is partner work and the partners 'teaching' each other (based on research which states that we learn 70% of what we talk about with our partner and 90% of what we teach).

Planning

Planning for Read Write Inc is completed with support from handbooks, considering the individual needs of each group. This planning identifies the phonics, ditties or storybooks and activities for the sessions targeted at the current attainment of the children. Lessons follow set routines and timings, ensuring consistency across the groups. Support staff are responsible for planning and delivering the lessons for their Read Write Inc groups, with support from teachers and the Read Write Inc leader as required.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Children are assessed continually throughout every lesson. This is done through teacher observations and the written work completed by the children. The teacher will assess how children:

- recognise and say the sounds
- Read the green and red words lists (green words can be segmented and blended, red words cannot be sounded out)
- Decode the ditty or story
- Comprehend the story

Formal assessment is completed once per half term by the Read Write Inc Leader. This checks the individual children's ability to recognise and say each sound and blend and say real and nonsense (alien words). This is done on a 1:1 basis. The assessment is then used to place children into groups with others at a similar stage to them. Read Write Inc promotes that children are placed in groups by their stage, not age. Although the assessments take place at the end of each half term, the child can be assessed earlier than that if higher attainment is being shown or there is a need to reassess earlier than planned. Read Write Inc grouping at St Joseph's is flexible, can change regularly and is completely focused around the needs of our children.

Additional Support

The Read Write Inc Leader will identify children who are below expected attainment for their age based on their half termly assessments. These children will receive additional 1:1 or small group phonics teaching from support staff in class, timings at the teacher's discretion. Children significantly below expected attainment are regularly assessed to support progression.

Phonics Screening Check

The phonics screening check is taken individually by all children in Year 1 in England, and is usually taken in June. The Year 1 phonics screening check is not a formal test, but a way for teachers to ensure that children are making sufficient progress with their phonics skills to read words, and that they are on track to become fluent readers who can enjoy reading for pleasure and for learning. It will help to identify whether your child needs additional support at this stage so that they do not fall behind in this vital early reading skill. If a child does not pass the phonics screening check in June, they will then be able to retake the check at a later date so that schools can track pupils until they are able to decode. At the end of the summer term, the school will report your child's score with their end of year report. We will provide parents with a practice phonics screening check closer to the time for you to use at home.

Home & School Partnership

At St Joseph's, we are fully committed to working in partnership with parents, as we believe that this is the key to successful learning. You can access further information on the school website and parents will also have access to the policy. Parent information meetings will be scheduled during the year for you to attend to gain further knowledge of the scheme we use. We will provide Speed Sounds books for you to keep at home to practice letter formation and pronunciation of each sound. As well as daily reading with their child, parents will also be required to support with RWI homework. We believe that these parental links will further strengthen the effectiveness of the reading programme.

Other Policies

For further information regarding SEND/Inclusion, Equality, Safeguarding etc please refer to our other policies which can be found on our school website. **Monitoring and Review**

The RWI Leader in conjunction with the Head Teacher is responsible for reviewing the effectiveness of this policy. All staff are responsible for implementing procedures outlined in this policy.