

Phonics Policy

Ledbury Primary School



Approved by: Marie Waters

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Phonics Policy

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What is phonics?

- This is the knowledge of how the alphabetic sounds work and how these sounds are combined to correspond to the spoken word.
- Phonemes are the sounds which are made by blending letters to correspond to the spoken word.
- Graphemes are the written equivalent of phonemes.

Aims:

- To present high quality, systematic phonic work.
- To enable children to learn phonic knowledge and skills with the expectation that they will become fluent readers, having secured word building and recognition skills, by the end of Key Stage One.
- To ensure that the children apply phonic knowledge as their first approach to reading and spelling, even though all words do not conform to regular phonic patterns.
- To ensure that children have opportunities to read texts and words that are within their phonic capabilities as early as possible, even though all words may not be entirely de-codable by the children unaided.
- To encourage the children to attempt to spell words for themselves, within the range of their phonic knowledge, by building the confidence and strategies to attempt the unfamiliar.
- To help the children to apply the skill of blending phonemes in order to read words.
- To help the children to segment words into their constituent phonemes in order to spell words.
- To learn that blending and segmenting words are reversible processes.
- To teach the children that phonemes should be blended from left to right through the complete word, in order for it to be read.

Delivery of Phonics

- The teaching of phonics at Ledbury Primary is based on the Read, Write Inc. scheme.
- Initial sounds are to be taught in a specific order.
- Sounds taught should be 'pure' i.e. 'b', not 'buh' as this is central to phonic teaching and the ability to recognise sounds in words.
- Children are to be taught that the number of graphemes in a word always corresponds to the number of phonemes. This greatly aids spelling.
- Set 2 sounds are to be taught after Set 1 (initial sounds).
- Letter names are to be introduced with Set 3.

Organisation

- On entry to school, children are assessed on their phonic knowledge.
- Children in YR are taught in ability groups.
- Phonic work is incorporated into daily lessons.
- In nursery, the focus for the first two terms is on speaking and listening skills, ensuring that children are attuned to the sounds around them and ready to begin developing oral blending and segmenting skills. Children then begin Read, Write Inc. in the summer term.

Early Years Foundation Stage

- EYFS teaches phonics as described above and the transition to KS1 phonics follows the progression outlined in Read, Write Inc.

Resources

- Each Read, Write Inc. teacher has all the required resources for their group.
- Read, Write Inc. is compatible with the present reading schemes used in school.

Assessment

- Built into Read, Write Inc. is a detailed assessment programme. This is used to assess the progress of each individual child on a regular basis.
- Children in year 1 are assessed using teacher judgement and termly screening tests.
- As a result of assessments, children are enabled to progress at their own pace and according to their own needs.

Inclusion

- It is our aim to give every child the opportunity to experience success in learning and to be the best that they can be. We appreciate that some pupils will have specific learning and assessment requirements.
- Teaching strategies are planned to make lessons and the learning environment more conducive for children with specific learning differences.
- For some lessons, extra adult support is provided in the lower ability groups. SEND pupils have ILPs which include specific targets to be addressed.

Equal Opportunities

- All children have an entitlement to access reading and spelling strategies at an appropriate level and are helped to do this.
- Precision teaching, alongside Lexia and RWI reading books, is used with children in KS2 who have failed their phonic screening test.

Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- EYFS policy
- Assessment policy
- SEND policy
- Basic Skills policy
- Pupil premium
- Equality information and objectives