



Reading & Phonics Policy 2023

Through Christ we believe, inspire, achieve.

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1. Curriculum Intent

Reading has the highest priority at English Martyrs - we are determined that every child learns to read and develops a love of reading. The sharing of carefully selected texts will inspire children to be passionate about reading and will encourage our children to want to read for pleasure, to further develop their knowledge and feed their curiosity. At English Martyrs we know that the ability to read is fundamental to pupils' ability to access the wider curriculum.

2. Reading and the National Curriculum

The programmes of study for reading at Key Stage 1 and 2 consists of 2 dimensions:

- Word reading
- Comprehension

It is essential that teaching focuses on developing pupils' competence in both dimensions; different kinds of teaching are needed for each.

4. Rationale

Our overarching aim in Reading is to educate our children so that they are able to understand the value and importance of reading and to also promote the pleasure and knowledge that can be gained from books.

3. Pupil Experiences

Phonics

- Phonic skills are taught daily from EYFS to Y3 through the Read Write Inc systematic synthetic phonics programme.
- Children are assessed on their phonetic knowledge half termly and sooner if a child is making rapid progress.
- Lessons are taught daily for 35 minutes to groups based on their phonetic understanding.

- For those children who are not working at the expected standard there are interventions 4 times a week.
- Meetings with parents take place in September to explain the teaching of phonics.
- Phonics intervention for older children, we use Fresh Start.

Reading

- Reading for pleasure is at the heart of the English curriculum. High quality texts are used during English and guided reading sessions.
- Children accessing Read Write Inc Phonics Programme read a decodable book everyday and are assigned two appropriate decodable books to read at home per week.
- Once the children in Key Stage 1, and currently in Year 3, have completed the Read Write Inc programme they will take part in a daily guided reading session.
- Pupils in Y2 - Y6 follow The Literacy Company's 'Pathways to Read' which develops vocabulary, reading and comprehension skills. These Guided Reading sessions take place at least twice a week in Years 4 - 6. All children who are not accessing the Read Write Inc Programme will read once a week 1:1 with an adult
- Age appropriate class books/ novels are read at the end of most days.
- Home reading is actively encouraged with all pupils given an age appropriate book to read at home.
- Identified readers will be targeted with additional reading opportunities. In Years 4, 5 & 6 this will be through the Reading Fluency Programme.
- There are recommended reading lists on the school website and paper copies given to parents during the Autumn term parents evenings.

Reading for Pleasure

- Reading Champions (Y2-Y6)
- Range of initiatives to promote reading - Bootle Literary Festival, Waterstones Bookshop visits, virtual author visits.
- Reading Buddies from Year 6 visit other classes throughout the school to read and enjoy books with younger children.
- Every classroom has a reading area with a range of texts covering a range of genres, authors and themes.
- Book Baskets are taken on to the playground for the children to enjoy books during their free time.
- Staff at English Martyrs model reading aloud most days when sharing class text/ story at the end of the day.
- We have 'Come and Read' sessions when parents/ grandparents/ carers are invited to come into class and read with their child.
- World Book Day is celebrated each year.
- Upper Key Stage 2 organise ERIC time and hot chocolate is provided.
- Stories are regularly incorporated into our assemblies.

5. Equal Opportunities

Inclusion is at the centre of everything we do at English Martyrs. Every pupil has the opportunity to enjoy a variety of reading activities where diversity and difference will be celebrated and respected.

6. Monitoring arrangements

Current Statutory Assessments:

- EYFS baseline assessments
- Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
- KS1 and KS2 National Curriculum Tests and Teacher Assessment (Y2 and Y6)

We also conduct the following:

- NFER assessments are carried out termly for reading.
- Children's reading ages are monitored through the 'Lexplore' programme.
- Formative assessment is used daily to inform planning.

7. Cross Curricular Links

Reading is a skill that is needed to access all subjects within the curriculum. Interesting, engaging, informative texts will be used to enhance learning across all curriculum subjects.

8. Resources

- Read Write Inc Phonics resources are kept in the small teaching room
- English resources are mostly kept in individual classrooms.
- Age-appropriate reading books are located in year group resource areas and class reading corners.
- All year groups have access to age-appropriate dictionaries and thesauruses.

9. Health and Safety

Staff will refer to current Health and Safety practices, safety regulations and safe guarding requirements. Teachers will ensure that instruments are used safely.

10. Monitoring of the Reading Policy

The implementation of the Reading policy will be monitored by the team of Reading Leaders, the English Subject Leader and members of the SLT.

Areas of priority and focus relating to reading will be highlighted within the School Development Plan.

11. Evaluation of Policy

Evaluation should take into account the following aspects:

- Implementation and coverage of the National Curriculum requirements for reading.
- Review of purchased schemes to ensure consistency and effectiveness.
- Progress of the children in line with key objectives, planning issues and staff needs as regards training and support;
- Staff development;
- Any issues arising from teaching, regards common problems or difficulties;
- Children who have not reached the age related expectations;
- Children with SEND.