



## Curriculum Overview for Phonics and Early Reading

### Intent

At Birkwood Primary School, we recognise that teaching children to read is the basis for future learning across the curriculum. Having the ability to read with fluency and understanding allows children to access the wider world and truly begin their learning journey. We believe that every child is a reader and it is our job to ensure they unlock their love of reading to enable them to make progress across the curriculum. We are dedicated to ensuring all children develop the skills required to understand the printed language from an early age. Children at Birkwood Primary follow the Read, Write, Inc. programme for phonics, which will enable them to become fluent readers with a passion for a variety of texts.

The Read, Write, Inc. Phonics programme is an inclusive method used to ensure all children develop the skills needed to read. Children learn the English alphabetic code: the 150+ graphemes that represent 44 speech sounds. They rapidly learn sounds and the letter, or groups of letters, they need to represent them, in three sets of Speed Sounds Lessons. Simple pictures and catchy phrases are used to help the children remember and recall the different phonemes needed for reading and spelling. By using this programme, we aim to teach children to read with effortless fluency and understanding so that all texts are accessible.

### Implementation

At Birkwood Primary, we begin the Read Write Inc Phonics programme in the Summer Term of Nursery and right from the very start of Reception. It lasts until children have completed it successfully. This is usually before the end of Key Stage 1.

RWI phonics lessons occur each morning with no exceptions, as the continuity and pace of the programme is key to accelerating the progress of children's reading development. Children are grouped according to their phonics knowledge and all staff who deliver these sessions receive regular training, including weekly coaching sessions, to ensure that they are providing children with the best possible opportunities to learn.

During the sessions, children learn a new sound, read and write the new sound and words containing the new sound, and apply their new learning by reading a text containing known words and sounds. Children are then able to practice what they have learned that week by taking home a copy of the text they have been reading in their daily sessions, a sound book containing their new sound and another book from the scheme, which matches their phonic knowledge. Children will also take home an aspirational text, which is to be read with support from their adult, to develop a love reading.

Sessions follow a common format and are based around the 5 Ps:

Purpose

Passion

Pace

Participation

Praise

Children are supported to keep up with their learning with daily 'Pinny Time' outside of the phonics lesson and children in F2 also access daily Fred Games and extra sessions to support sound development called 'Speed Minutes'. Key members of staff also deliver 1 – 1 tutoring sessions in an afternoon in F2 and KS1. Children are assessed for their knowledge of speed sounds, reading accuracy and reading speed every half term. They are then regrouped by the reading leader who works with the reading team to determine next steps for groups and identifies pupils needing 1-1 tutoring.

#### Impact

By following the Read, Write, Inc. programme for teaching systematic phonics, our aim is to ensure all children become fluent readers by the end of Key Stage One. Progress in phonics is monitored by the early reading leader in school through half termly assessments with the children. These are then used to inform groupings and to identify children who may need extra interventions to support their development. Attainment in phonics is measured by the Phonics Screening Check at the end of Year One. Our approach to Phonics ensures that we give our children the best possible start and provides them with the opportunities needed to become confident, fluent and accurate readers. We have a lead member of staff for Phonics who is available to support staff with the delivery of their phonics sessions and provide access to continuing CPD to ensure our children are provided with the best learning experiences.

We aim to ensure our children are confident and fluent readers by the end of Key Stage One so that we can then continue to develop their understanding and comprehension of texts as they move through Key Stage Two. Progress in Early Reading is monitored through regular assessments in every year which allow teachers to identify and address any gaps in learning or misconceptions in learning. Attainment is measured using the statutory assessments at the end of both Key Stage One and Key Stage Two.

At Birkwood Primary, we strongly believe that reading is the basis for all learning, across the curriculum and, as a result, we are passionate about instilling a love of reading as part of our reading provision.

#### Summary Outcomes

- To ensure that phonics is taught effectively across the school according to the Read, Write, Inc. principles and practices.
- To ensure all staff are trained in the teaching of Read, Write, Inc. by enhancing their skills and, in doing so, creating consistency in practice across school.
- To ensure pupils build on their prior knowledge and follow the prescribed teaching sequence of Read, Write, Inc.
- The early reading leader will assess children's progress every half term and plan their next steps on the programme.
- Children apply their phonics skills to support reading and writing across all curriculum subjects.
- All teachers support children in class by providing Read, Write, Inc. materials for reading and writing in all areas of the curriculum.

Areas for Action

- To work with our RWI consultant to continue staff development and training in the use of Read Write Inc.
- To ensure that phonics is consistently taught and to a high standard.
- To embed Read Write Inc as the means of teaching reading and writing throughout school and to ensure that all pupils finish the programme.
- To ensure all elements of Read Write Inc are taught in the correct sequence and following the prescribed teaching methods.
- To inform parents about how Read Write Inc works and to share information about how they can support their child at home.