

Lovers' Lane Primary and Nursery School

Phonics Policy



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Phonics Policy

Introduction

Lovers' Lane Primary is a friendly and caring school in which the children are supported and encouraged through lessons, assemblies and playtime to achieve their best in every aspect of their learning. Within our diverse and inclusive community, we aim to nurture individuals and develop pride and mutual respect for each other and our school through our core values - Show Respect, Work together, Aspire and Nurture.

Rationale

Aspects of the 2014 National Curriculum for English that are applicable to the early stages of the teaching of reading, aim to ensure that all pupils:

- read easily, fluently and with good understanding
- develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information
- write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences

At Lovers' Lane Primary, we strive to teach children to read effectively and quickly using the Read Write Inc. Phonics programme (RWI) which includes teaching synthetic phonics, sight vocabulary, decoding and encoding words as well as spelling and accurate letter formation.

Using the RWI Scheme, to teach children to decode and then read, we aim to teach children from Early Years up to Year 2 and in KS2 where needed to:

- apply their phonic knowledge and skills as the route to decode words
- respond speedily with the correct sound to graphemes (letters or groups of letters) for all common 40+ phonemes
- read accurately by blending sounds in unfamiliar words that contain the Grapheme Phoneme Correspondences (GPCs) that they have been taught
- read common exception words, noting unusual correspondences between spelling and sound
- read words containing taught GPCs and –s, –es, –ing, –ed, –er and –est endings
- read words of more than one syllable that contain taught GPCs
- read words with contractions and understand that the apostrophe represents the omitted letter(s)

- accurately read aloud books, that are consistent with their developing phonic knowledge and that do not require them to use other strategies to work out words
- reread books to build up their fluency, accuracy and expression and hence develop confidence and enjoyment of reading
- read most high-frequency regular words quickly and accurately, without overt sounding and blending; only needing to sound out unfamiliar words
- spell words containing each of the 40+ phonemes by segmenting the sounds in words
- spell common exception words correctly
- add prefixes and suffixes to previously taught words
- spell effortlessly, and with confidence, so that all their focus when writing can be directed towards composition
- make phonetically plausible attempts to spell words correctly
- select the correct GPC for words that contain sounds that have more than one GPC – e.g. ay, ai, a-e etc.
- form each letter correctly, using RWI letter formation rhymes to encourage correct entry and exit points, orientation and letter size.

At Lovers' Lane Primary, these skills are embedded within daily RWI lessons. By focussing on the teaching of reading in the Early Years and KS1, using a synthetic phonics scheme, children learn to read unfamiliar printed words by blending (decoding) and speedily recognise familiar printed words by sight. We want all children to enjoy and experience early success in learning to read. We are committed to developing children's love of reading and to help them to acquire knowledge and to build on what they already know.

These principles and features characterise our approach to the teaching of reading using RWI:

- Teachers teach RWI using a detailed, proven step-by-step teaching scheme; where children are first taught simple GPCs, to accurately blend taught sounds, to decode simple words containing taught graphemes and then to read specifically designed books that are closely matched to their increasing knowledge of phonics and the common exception words.
- Pupils are taught within small homogenous groups, across year groups, which reflect their performance in RWI phonics assessments. We make sure that pupils read books that are closely matched to their increasing knowledge of phonics and ability to read 'tricky words'; so they experience early reading success and gain confidence that they are readers.

- RWI teachers have all the RWI resources needed to teach RWI and they follow detailed lesson plans. This ensures the consistency of the teaching of reading, in every RWI lesson, irrespective of the RWI reading teacher.
- Teachers attend regular in-house and online CPD sessions, where they have the opportunity to learn about pedagogical changes, new RWI resources and to observe and practice specific parts of the teaching process.
- Regular assessment ensures that pupils are taught in homogeneous groups which match their phonic knowledge and reading level. Pupils making speedy progress move groups quickly. Those pupils making steady progress continue at an appropriate pace matched to their reading level. Those pupils making slower progress are usually taught in smaller groups and generally receive additional small group or one-to-one intervention.

We assess all pupils from Reception to Year 2 using RWI Assessment materials. We use this data to assign them to their correct RWI Group and to identify if they need to have any additional support. This provides a good indication of their progress relative to their starting points. We track the phonic progress that pupils make from Reception to Year 2 and, at the end of Year 1; we evaluate pupils' acquisition of GPCs and decoding skills using the Phonics Screening Check (PSC). This ensures that we are able to maintain high standards in the teaching of the early stages reading in EYFS (using the Reading statements in the EYFS Profile), in Year 1 (using the PSC materials) and in Year 2 (using the statutory KS1 Reading assessment materials). Pupils in KS2 that are still acquiring word reading skills, continue to be part of the RWI program.

Aims of the subject

Daily Nursery RWI lessons start during the spring term. Children have a short phonics input session, where they are taught two new Set 1 sounds per week and they also review previously taught sounds every day. Pupils practice Fred talk, to develop decoding skills, and they learn to write the corresponding graphemes for the sounds they have been taught. Children also write simple CVC words, using their GPC knowledge to assist them. Towards the end of the summer term, there is an increase phonics focus during daily literacy lessons where children are encouraged to hear and write the initial and final sounds in words.

Reception RWI lessons start immediately after Reception teachers have completed their Baseline Assessment. Children are organised into RWI Groups based on their phonic knowledge, ability to orally blend taught phonemes and read simple CVC words. This ensures the correct level of support, challenge and progression in the teaching of reading in Reception. Four RWI lessons are taught every week and each lesson lasts for approximately 30 minutes.

Daily KS1 RWI lessons commence at the start of the academic year; children are grouped by their phonic knowledge as well as their reading accuracy, fluency and comprehension. Five RWI lessons are taught every week and each lesson lasts for approximately 40 minutes.

Both the Reception and KS1 RWI lessons start with a 10-minute phonics input session, where new sounds are taught, or previously taught sounds are reviewed. Pupils learn how to apply their grapheme/phoneme knowledge to read real, simple words – initially sounding out these words and then progressing onto speedy reading of words – and also alien (pseudo) words. They also learn how to read irregular words and multisyllabic words.

Following on from this, during the main part of the lesson, pupils are taught to read the regular and irregular words that are found in the RWI storybook that they are reading, and then they apply this knowledge to read RWI storybooks at their phonic level. The final part of the teaching sequence has an assessment focus, where pupils apply their phonic knowledge to read alien /pseudo words.

Curriculum

Nursery

Initially, during the autumn term children develop a love of language and enjoy listening to stories. EYFS staff use ‘Fred Talk’ and Fred Games daily (saying words using pure sounds) with the children, with the expectation that the children will begin to encode the words. During the spring term, Nursery teachers use phonics flashcards to teach Set 1 Speed Sound picture cards. In the summer term Nursery are taught the Set 1 single letter sounds to prepare them for Reception. During this process children hear the sound, see pictures of objects that start with that sounds, hear a phrase to assist the children to help remember the sound, see the grapheme, and then write the grapheme. Children review previously taught speed sounds on a daily basis and continue to have regular opportunities for Fred talk.

Reception

During the first few weeks of Reception, a Baseline RWI assessment is completed to enable the Reading Leader to determine the phonic knowledge of each child.

Because of this assessment, classes are split into small homogenous groups. Children that know no or very few sounds, learn the Set 1 sounds from the beginning, in very small groups, with a focus on repetition and Fred talk. Children that know some sounds, are taught unknown sounds then also progress onto assisted blending. Children that know many sounds, but can't orally blend, focus on learning the technique of assisted blending and then to quickly progress to independent blending. Those children that can orally blend and read CVC words, focus on using known sounds to independently blend words containing 3 or more sounds and reading RWI Storybooks. Reception pupils learn sounds and the

corresponding grapheme, or groups of letters which represent each phoneme. Simple mnemonics help children to quickly grasp this phoneme-grapheme relationship. This is especially useful for pupils at risk of making slower progress. This learning is consolidated daily.

KS1 and KS2

At Lovers' Lane children are taught phonics in their Year Groups. This means that Reception, Y1 and Y2 children are taught within their year groups and there is no mixing of children with RWI Groups.

In Key Stage 1 pupils work within homogenous groups, which reflect their performance in RWI phonic assessments. We make sure that pupils read books that are closely matched to their increasing knowledge of phonics and ‘red words’, ensuring they experience success, gain confidence and see themselves as readers.

Pupils are re-assessed every six to eight weeks and the RWI groups are reorganised accordingly.

Year Group Phonics Expectations at Lovers' Lane

This grid shows expectations of progress from Reception to Year 2 at Lovers' Lane in phonics.

Key:

S1:A = Set 1 Sounds Group A

S1:B = Set 1 Sounds Group B

S1:C = Set 1 Sounds Group C

RC = Reading Comprehension Group - Moving onto PM Benchmarking

Reception

Year 1

	S1:A	S1:B	S1:C	Ditty 1-10	Red	Green	Purple	Pink	Orange	Yellow	Blue	Grey	RC
Base-line Year 1													
End of Term 1													
End of Term 2													
End of Term 3													

Year 2

	S1:A	S1:B	S1:C	Ditty 1-10	Red	Green	Purple	Pink	Orange	Yellow	Blue	Grey	RC
Base-line Year 2													
End of Term 1													

What do we do to support pupils needing to secure phonics and reading skills in Key Stage 2?

When pupils move into Key Stage 2, we are careful to continue to assess their phonics needs and provide tailored intervention to support them in securing these essential skills for learning. Some pupils may not have passed the phonics screening by the end of Key Stage 1 and need this support to catch up. In Year 5 and 6, pupils also have intervention using the 'Freshstart' Read Write Inc materials to close phonics gaps.

Pupils in Key Stage 2 also have their reading books matched to phonics levels where this is appropriate based on need and where they are in the catch-up programme. A supply of Read Write Inc Bookbag books are available in our Key Stage 2 library, which staff can allocate for pupils according to need. Once pupils have secured their reading ability, they can move through book bands onto free reading books.

Equal Opportunities/inclusion

At Lovers' Lane Primary, we are committed to providing a teaching environment which ensures all children are provided with the same learning opportunities regardless of social class, gender, culture, race and disability or learning difficulties. The school works to ensure the active participation and progress of all children in their learning.

All children will be given equal opportunities to achieve their best possible standard, whatever their current attainment and irrespective of gender, ethnic, social or cultural

background, home language or any other aspect that could affect their participation or the progress of which they are capable.

All pupils are entitled to access RWI resources and teachings at a level appropriate to their needs arising from race, gender, ability or disability.

A range of inclusion strategies, as listed on the school's inclusion planning key, are embedded in practice and teachers are aware of the special educational needs of the children in their RWI group, as well as those who have English as an additional language.

The 2014 National Curriculum states that:

'Pupils who grasp concepts rapidly should be challenged through being offered rich and sophisticated problems before any acceleration through new content. Those who are not sufficiently fluent with earlier material should consolidate their understanding, including through additional practice, before moving on.'

Pupils making accelerated progress will move groups to ensure that an appropriate level of challenge is provided. Pupils that need additional support to consolidate their phonic knowledge and its application will generally be taught in smaller groups where they have the opportunity to consolidate their knowledge prior to moving onto the next stage. If appropriate, further intervention will be provided to support their phonic development.

Specific arrangements for the provision of children with SEND will be communicated to parents and carers during SEND reviews.

Role of the subject leader

The RWI Reading Leader:

- Oversees the assessment of all Reception & Key Stage 1 pupils, reviews assessment data to organise pupils to the correct RWI groups
- Provides RWI teachers with a list of graphemes that their group requires consolidation of
- Assigns RWI teachers to RWI groups
- 'Drops in' on RWI groups to give advice and to informally check that pupils are in the correct groups through learning walks and scrutiny of work
- Where necessary, models lessons, team-teaches and coaches existing and new staff.
- Organises RWI Development Days, led by our RWI consultant trainer, where the teaching of RWI at Lovers' Lane Primary and Nursery is reviewed and assessed. The RWI trainer also coaches staff, supports RWI intervention teachers, updates the RWI Lead on new practices and helps the RWI Lead to create a plan of action to help develop the teaching of reading.

- Ensures that all staff are trained in RWI Phonics and book regular Development Days with RWI consultant trainers.
- Lliaises with the Head Teacher regarding groupings, teaching spaces, staffing, training, progress, additional support and other relevant matters
- Is responsible for reporting to the governors about the quality of the implementation of RWI and the impact on standards
- Meets with the reading team, every third week for at least 20 minutes, focussing on the coaching, modelling and the development teaching of one aspect of the teaching of RWI, to ensure that RWI is taught to a consistently high level across the school.
- Sets online CPD for all staff specifically for individual needs
- Organises regular workshops with parents
- Lliaises with class teachers to discuss the progress of children in RWI
- Provides class teachers with a report on children's RWI grouping, any sounds needed to be consolidated and also any additional comments
- Ensures a statement about a child's reading ability is written and included in the child's end-of-year report

Evaluations (Assessment, attainment and progress)

Assessment for Learning:

The programme's 'cycle of instruction' means that, after direct instruction and guided practice, the pupils teach their partner. In this way, they all rehearse and consolidate what they have been learning. This helps the pupils to make their understanding clear to themselves and helps the teacher deal with any misconceptions. 'Partner teaching' is a key assessment tool. Assessment is a critical element of our programme. The teachers assess:

- pupils' phonic knowledge
- The speed at which pupils are able to read the text
- Their understanding of the stories they read

Formative Assessment:

Daily formative assessment opportunities are built into every RWI lesson. Choral response group work, partner work, the small class size allows teachers to evaluate pupils' phonic knowledge and hence modify the pace and focus of their lessons. Formative assessment opportunities provide teachers with knowledge of which children are making slow, steady or

speedy progress and hence they can liaise with the Reading Leader to provide additional support (for children making slower progress) or an immediate assessment (for pupils making speedy progress) to allow such pupils to change group.

Summative Assessment:

All pupils are assessed every 6-8 weeks, or more frequently for those making speedier progress, using RWI Assessment materials. The assessment is conducted by the Reading Leader and the materials assess a pupils' sound to grapheme correspondence, ability to apply phonic knowledge to decode regular words and to read common exception words. Pupils reading fluency is also evaluated.

Pupils' progress is tracked, to record their phonic knowledge and decoding skills, and this information is used to reorganise groups, RWI Storybook level and the focus of the phonics input of the lesson.

Summative assessment is used to update RWI tracking sheets, which monitors pupils' progress over time, and also to update AWL assessment grids.

Assessment information, from both the formative and summative assessment progresses, is used to provide updates to parents via Parents' Evening updates or more specific meetings with parents.

Planning and Resources

Planning is minimised as we follow the Lovers' Lane RWI planning scheme, which is based on the RWI Handbooks and plans as well as part of our online subscription. This ensures consistency across the program, as well as freeing up time for teachers to source additional resources etc. to make the lesson come alive to the class. Planning details the focus of each part of the RWI lesson and explains the purpose of the activity to both the teacher and the pupil. Planning also explains the resources needed for each day in the teaching cycle. Every RWI teacher has their own box of RWI Resources these include: simple and complex speed-sounds charts, small and large phonics flash cards, magnetic boards and letters, green and red word flash cards, phonics wall friezes and Fred the Frog. Set 1, 2 and 3 teaching sequence resources. RWI storybooks (with Story Green words and Speedy Green words), ditties and linked texts and props are all stored centrally.

Organisation

Teachers follow Lovers' Lane RWI lesson plans and ensure that the lessons are taught at a good pace to ensure that all children are engaged and involved in the lesson. Children are praised for their contribution to lessons, reading and effort so that a very positive and respectful teaching environment is maintained. Every part of the lesson is explicitly referred to so that the teachers, and the children, know the purpose of the task. Use of effective partner work, turn-taking and children taking on the 'teacher role', means that children

have an active role in all parts of the lesson. 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. Teachers demonstrate their enthusiasm and passion in the program and this has a very positive impact on the teaching and learning environment.