

Teaching of Phonics and Reading Statement

Aims:

At St. Michael's we believe that reading is a skill which is taught through planned, systematic phonics lessons which lead to the enjoyment of all kinds of books, the appreciation of different genres and the ability to access information independently. Through their own reading, we hope that children will develop their individual tastes in literature and be able to understand and justify their own choice of books.

Our Primary aims are:

- To develop phonetic skills which lead to blending and reading fluently.
- To promote confidence and positive attitudes to reading.
- To promote and encourage good home/school links using a wide range of literature.
- To equip children with critical tools so they are able to analyse what they read.
- To give children access to a wide range of fiction and information books.
- To monitor each child's progress through the use of a range of assessment strategies e.g Reading Age tests, on-going reading observations, application of APP (Assessing Pupils Progress) criteria.
- To support those who are progressing slowly in acquiring reading skills through a personalised reading program.

Approach

At St Michael's CE School we follow the **Read Write Inc** approach to teaching Reading and Phonics, supplemented with additional reading materials. Our approach is systematic, consistent and rigorous in order that all children become readers as quickly as possible.

We use the same phonics program across the school providing continuity and a vehicle for guaranteed progression.

RWI sessions take place four times a week. Pupils are taught in ability groups from Year R to Year 2 and then within an intervention programme from Year 3 to Year 6, thus enabling them to be taught according to their reading level not their age. Teaching is very precise and tailored to the needs of each child irrespective of year group.

The alphabetic code is taught first with children learning new sounds and practising pronouncing and blending these sounds on a daily basis. Simple mnemonics help the children grasp the letter sounds quickly. Then we match the sounds pupils know to the books they read, getting children to read those books a few times which helps them to read using a story tellers voice. Additionally children hear lots of other stories in school thus increasing their story knowledge and vocabulary.

Our Literacy Coordinator, Mrs. S. Coleman leads the school reading team. She helps to teach, monitor and assess all groups, providing training and support for all RWI leaders as and when needed.

Children are assessed on a very regular basis (6 weekly) and are taught in groups according to ability.

More information about Read / Write / Inc is available at:

<http://www.oup.com/oxed/primary/rwi/forparents/>