

St Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School



Phonics Policy 2024

INTENT

Phonics is a key skill that supports the development of early reading skills. At St Matthew's Bloxam, we combine quality phonic teaching and the promotion of reading for pleasure to provide our pupils with the skills they need to have a successful start to their lives as readers.

Using the DFE validated scheme Essential Letters and Sounds (ELS), we intend our pupils to be able to:

- Recognise, say and write all phonemes within each phase of Essential Letters and Sounds
- Use their phonic knowledge to blend and segment phonetically decodable words
- Use their phonic knowledge to attempt to read and write more complex words
- Read Harder to Read and Write words
- Write clearly, accurately and coherently, using their phonic knowledge

IMPLEMENTATION

In order to implement our intent, we have:

- A DFE validated scheme of work that teaches specific, relevant and ambitious vocabulary (ELS)
 - A cohesive and consistent approach to teaching phonics, where daily sessions follow the same structure
- Ensured that staff are equipped with the necessary professional development to deliver our curriculum
- Daily Phonics sessions in Early Years, Key Stage 1 and for some KS2 children. To ensure all children learn the 44 phonemes of the English language
- A progressive scheme of work where the teaching of phonics begins in Nursery and progresses with the children at a sustained pace.
- Children improve their ability to segment and blend sounds, and their ability to apply this knowledge into their reading and writing
- Small and focussed group teaching to target children's specific next steps
- A rigorous assessment system that informs teaching
- Use appropriate ELS interventions to ensure children Keep Up Rather Than Catch Up
- Regular reading opportunities and story times for all children in school. In school we use the online library for class reading and fully decodable books are used for individual / group reading. Children take home a mixture of fully decodable books or a differentiated coloured band book.
- A Phonics Screening Check for Year 1 in the summer term and for those in Year 2 who need to retake

- A curriculum that meets the needs of all pupils (including SEND)

IMPACT

Through implementing the above:

- Pupils will be confident in their phonic knowledge
- Pupils will be able to blend and segment words confidently
- Pupils will pass the Phonics Screening Check
- A culture where a secure knowledge of phonic sounds enables reading for pleasure as part of our reading curriculum

Resources

The Essential Letters and Sounds Handbook provides more detailed information on the Teaching of Phonics.

Decodable books are stored in the Reception classroom, on the lower bookshelf near Year 2 and on the shelves near the Year 3 classroom. Coloured book band books are available on the shelf outside Reception and on the taller shelf near Year 2. Requests for resources are given to the English and Phonics coordinator to order as the budget allows.

Review

This policy will be reviewed in 3 years' time (Autumn 2026) or before if there is a significant change in Government policy.