

Castlefields Primary School



Reading Policy

Date of policy: Spring 2025

Next review date: Spring 2027

Responsibility: Headteacher/ Governors

Doc: *Comp 2/Policy Docs*

READING POLICY

Aims and Objectives:

Reading is one of the most important life skills children learn. It is the key to unlock learning and as such we offer a rich and varied approach to reading at Castlefields Primary School.

We follow the National Curriculum for our English teaching and we aim for all our children to become fluent, confident readers and writers because fluency in the English language is an essential foundation for success in all subjects.

All the communication skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing are vital to a child's independence and development. This policy demonstrates how 'Reading' is taught at Castlefields.

Phonics Scheme

We follow the Read, Write, Inc Phonics Scheme throughout school.

The programme is for:

- Children in Year R to Year 2 who are learning to read and write
- Struggling readers in Years 2 and above who need to catch up rapidly

In Read Write Inc. Phonics children:

- Decode letter-sound correspondences quickly and effortlessly, using their phonic knowledge and skills
- Read common exception words by sight
- Understand what they read
- Read aloud with fluency and expression
- Spell quickly and easily by segmenting the sounds in words

In Reception, children start with whole class learning from the beginning of the scheme where they will learn single letter sounds. We group children regularly, according to their progress in phonics based on both recognition of sounds and word reading.

We make sure that pupils read books that are closely matched to their increasing knowledge of phonics and the common exception words. This is so that, early on, they experience success and gain confidence that they are readers. Re-reading and

discussing these books with an adult supports their increasingly fluent decoding. Alongside this, the teachers read a wide range of stories, poetry and non-fiction to pupils; they are soon able to read these texts for themselves.

Reading in Early Years

In Reception children are taught to read using a systematic phonics scheme (following the RWI phonics scheme). This continues throughout Year 1 and beyond if necessary.

In Reception and KS1 children regularly read to an adult from a book which is closely matched to their phonic ability. They also have a RWI phonics lesson daily.

By the end of Reception most children are expected to achieve the Early Learning Goal for Reading which states that:

“Children read and understand simple sentences. They use phonic knowledge to decode regular words and read them aloud accurately. They also read some common irregular words. They demonstrate understanding when talking with others about what they have read.”

Teaching of Reading after phonics

Once children can read independently and have mastered the basics of reading phonetically, with a knowledge of some tricky words, they will be taught spellings through the Read, Write, Inc spelling scheme. This is a daily spelling lesson, where children are taught how to spell, read and write words using a variety of different spelling patterns.

These children will also learn to read by using a Guided Reading approach. This works on the principle of a shared text appropriate to the year group. Children will read aloud with increasing fluency and contribute to discussion based on comprehension of the book.

Through Guided Reading pupils are taught to:

- Read easily and fluently with good understanding
- Understand extended prose (both fiction and non-fiction)
- Develop the habit of reading widely and often for pleasure and/or information gathering
- Acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading

National Curriculum programme of study for Reading

We follow the National Curriculum 2014 programme of study for Reading in Year 1 to Year 6 which consists of two dimensions: word reading and comprehension (both listening and reading).

Word reading is taught through phonics and decoding. As children develop into more fluent readers, they are taught to recognise words that are phonetically recognisable and those that need to be learned through recognition.

Comprehension builds on a knowledge of vocabulary and grammar and a knowledge of the world. Comprehension skills are developed through pupils' experience of high-quality discussion with the teacher as well as reading and discussing a wide range of stories, poems and non-fiction texts.

Nurturing a Love of Reading

At Castlefields, all pupils will be encouraged to read widely across both fiction and non-fiction to develop the knowledge of themselves and the world in which they live, to establish an appreciation and love of reading, and to gain knowledge across the curriculum. Reading widely and often, increases pupils' vocabulary because they encounter words they would rarely hear or use in everyday speech.

By encouraging reading as one of our main curriculum drivers, at Castlefields, we help to feed pupils' imagination and open up wonder and joy for curious young minds.

Our over-riding aim is that by the end of Year 6 all pupils are able to read fluently and with confidence in many subjects.

At Castlefields we promote reading in many ways. We encourage our pupils to use the school library and local town library services. We promote reading for pleasure and for the finding of information in school and at home. We encourage reading through our broad balanced curriculum. We analyse different types of texts in English lessons. We take part in different reading initiatives such as the Shropshire Bookfest and our very own Castlefields Bookfest.

Castlefields are proud of their Leading in Reading accreditation from Shropshire Bookfest and the University of Shrewsbury.