

Castlefields Primary School



Reading Policy

Date of policy: Spring 2024

Next review date: Spring 2025

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

At Castlefields we follow the Phonics Scheme of 'Essential Letters and Sounds' throughout school. Essential Letters and Sounds (ELS) is a synthetic phonics programme. Synthetic phonics is a way of teaching children to read. It teaches children how sounds are represented by written letters. Children are taught to read words by blending these sounds together to make words. For example, they will be taught that the letters 'm-a-t' blend together to make 'mat'. A synthetic phonics programme, such as ELS, is a structure for teaching these sounds in a certain order to build up children's learning gradually.

It is used daily during Reception and Year 1 to teach all the sounds in the English language. With ELS, there is a daily phonics lesson where the teacher teaches a new sound, or reviews sounds learned earlier in the week. This is shown to the class on the whiteboard. Children learn the letters that represent the sounds. They are then asked to read words and sentences with the new sounds in. This is also supported with a carefully matched phonics text which children can bring home to read with parents and carers. Children will also practise writing the letters that represent the sounds and once they have been introduced to all the sounds, they will be using the 'Kinetic Letters' handwriting scheme to ensure they are forming their letters correctly. ELS, as with other synthetic phonic schemes, is a scheme that has been developed to be accessible for all children and it enables them to succeed in their phonological development.

Reading in Early Years

At Castlefields we feel it is vitally important for children to experience a language-rich environment especially in the early years. As stated in the Reading Framework 2023 'A language-rich environment is one in which adults talk with children throughout the day. The more children take part in conversations and discussion, the more they will understand once they can read and the more vocabulary and ideas they will have to draw on when they can write.'

Children in Nursery hear lots of books being read to them and have a rich reading curriculum where reading is encouraged both at school and at home. Children are also encouraged to choose books to borrow and explore books individually, with adults and peers. There is a dedicated, daily story time as well as the opportunity to join in with songs and rhymes. There are also book corners in all classrooms at Castlefields, including those in the Early Years which feature a wide range of books.

In Reception and KS1 children regularly read to an adult from a book matched to their phonic ability. They also have access to a wide range of books in the library and the class book corners which they can also choose to borrow.

Alongside phonics learning, children in EYFS and KS1 are learning their tricky to read and write words.

The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage include early learning goals (ELGs) which set out the expected level of development by the end of reception. *Children at the expected level of development will: - Say a sound for each letter in the alphabet and at least 10 digraphs; - Read words consistent with their phonic knowledge by sound-blending; - Read aloud simple sentences and books that are consistent with their phonic knowledge, including some common exception words.*

At Castlefields we recognise that the importance of a solid start to reading in the Early Years and this is supported by the 'Development Matters' document which states: *It is crucial for children to develop a life-long love of reading. Reading consists of two dimensions: language comprehension and word reading. Language comprehension (necessary for both reading and writing) starts from birth. It only develops when adults talk with children about the world around them and the books (stories and non-fiction) they read with them, and enjoy rhymes, poems and songs together. Skilled word reading, taught later, involves both the speedy working out of the pronunciation of unfamiliar printed words (decoding) and the speedy recognition of familiar printed words. Writing involves transcription (spelling and handwriting) and composition (articulating ideas and structuring them in speech, before writing).*

Teaching of Reading in KS1 and KS2 through Guided Reading

As within the Early Years at Castlefields we work hard to instil a love of reading. As mentioned previously all classrooms have reading corners which feature books from a wide range of genres, children and staff share, read aloud and discuss books each day and there is a set story time for each class.

Once children can read independently and have mastered the basics of reading phonetically, with a knowledge of some tricky words, they will continue to be taught reading, including through a Guided Reading approach. This works on the principle of a shared text that is appropriate to the age of the children. It will often compliment the topic they are focusing on in class and children will read aloud with fluency and contribute to discussions and complete activities based on comprehension of the book.

Through Guided Reading pupils are taught to:

- Read easily and fluently with good understanding, using the Pawsome Gang in Key Stage 1 and KS2 which help children understand the reading VIPERS (Vocabulary, Inference, Prediction, Explanation, Retrieval and Sequencing/Summarising).
- 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.

Equal Opportunities

At Castlefields Primary School the notion of equality of opportunity is highly valued. We ensure reading is inclusive and meets the needs of all our pupils, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) by tailoring lessons according to the needs of these pupils in consultation with senior leaders, class teachers and parents, if applicable.