



Castlefields Primary School



Reading Policy

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Responsibility: Headteacher/Governors

Doc: *Comp 2/Policy Docs*

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 Phonics Scheme of 'Letters and Sounds' throughout school. In Nursery children focus on Phase One phonics from Letters and Sounds. They also begin to recognise that a grapheme (letter or group of letters) represents a sound (phoneme). Children in Nursery hear lots of books being read to them. Children in Nursery have a reading rich curriculum where reading is encouraged both at school and at home. This work continues into Reception where children continue with Phase Two and Three phonics and beyond for those children who are ready.

Ready for Reading

Children are ready for reading when their knowledge of phonics is secure. They then start on a reading scheme with books that are phonetically in line with their development.

Reading in Early Years

In Reception children are taught to read using a systematic phonics scheme (based on Letters and Sounds). This continues throughout Year 1 and beyond if necessary

In Reception and KS1 children regularly read to an adult from a book matched to their phonic ability. In class they also have a phonics session every day.

Alongside phonics learning, children in EYFS and KS1 are learning their common irregular words - tricky words.

Children will experience books from a variety of reading materials: Oxford Reading Tree, Oxford Reading Tree Songbirds, Oxford Reading Tree Phonics, Big Cat Phonic readers and Dandelion readers.

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 in KS1 and KS2 through Guided Reading

Once children can read independently and have mastered the basics of reading phonetically, with a knowledge of some tricky words, they will be taught reading through a Guided Reading approach, from Year 1 to Year 6. This works on the principle of a shared text that is tailored to the ability of the Guided Reading group and children will read aloud with 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 Shrewsbury Bookfest and our very own Castlefields Bookfest.