

Misterton Primary and Nursery School

Phonics Policy

2023-2024



PHILOSOPHY

At Misterton Primary and Nursery School we aim to teach all children to read using the inclusive, synthetic phonics literacy programme called Read Write Inc (R.W.I) . Children learn the 44 common sounds in the English language and how to blend them to read and spell. The scheme includes both a reading and a writing focus.

Reading is the key that unlocks the whole curriculum so the ability to efficiently decode is essential. The R.W.I sessions occur each day, as the continuity and pace of the programme is key to accelerating the progress of children's reading development.

AIMS

To teach children to:

- apply the skill of blending phonemes in order to read words.
- segment words into their constituent phonemes in order to spell words.
- learn that blending and segmenting words are reversible processes.
- read high frequency words that do not conform to regular phonic patterns.
- read texts and words that are within their phonic capabilities as early as possible.
- decode texts effortlessly so all their resources can be used to comprehend what they read.
- spell effortlessly so that all their resources can be directed towards composing their writing.

TEACHING AND LEARNING STYLES

This is based on the 5 Ps.

Praise – Children learn quickly in a positive climate.

Pace – Good pace is essential to the lesson.

Purpose – Every part of the lesson has a specific purpose.

Passion – This is a very prescriptive programme. It is the energy, enthusiasm and passion that teachers put into the lesson that bring the teaching and learning to life!

Participation - A strong feature of R.W.I. lessons is partner work and the partners 'teaching' each other (based on research which states that we learn 70% of what we talk about with our partner and 90% of what we teach).

It is important to remember to never give up! Every child can learn to read if you persevere.

PLANNING

Pupils work within ability groups which are defined by their performance on R.W.I. phonic tests. Pupils are re-tested during the year and the groups are reorganised accordingly.

Teacher generated planning is minimized as the planning is integrated into the teacher's handbooks and follows set routines. Each group leader has a printed format for planning ditties or storybook lessons. To this framework, is added the particular ditty/ storybook being

studied, new phonic elements that are being introduced and any other points worthy of note for future use.

TA's will be responsible for planning for their R.W.I groups, with the support of the R.W.I manager as required.

PRACTICE

- Initial sounds are to be taught in a specific order.
- Sounds taught should be 'pure' ie 'b', not 'buh' as this is central to phonic teaching and ability to recognise sounds in words.
- Blends are to be declustered. eg bl is two specific sounds.
- Children are to be taught that the number of graphemes in a word always corresponds to the number of phonemes. This greatly aids spelling.
- Set 2 sounds are to be taught after Set 1 (initial sounds)
- Letter names are to be introduced with Set 3.

R.W.I. ACROSS THE SCHOOL

Foundation Stage: R.W.I. is fully implemented in Foundation Stage but the class will not be split into groups until the initial sounds have been taught. Once the sounds have been taught assessments will take place to determine groupings.

Sessions will take place daily. Within this time a Speed Sounds session will occur with follow up handwriting sessions while children access continuous provision, in line with the EYFS.

Key Stage One: R.W.I. groups will be set following assessments carried out by the R.W.I Teacher. The sessions will occur daily for 1 hour. These sessions will include a Speed Sounds session followed by Reading and Get Writing! sessions. Once children 'come off' the programme they will then access English sessions and RWI Spelling.

Sessions will take place daily.

Key Stage Two: R.W.I. groups will take the form of an intervention during literacy sessions for those children with the greatest need in Year 3 and 4. In Year 5/6 the 'Fresh Start' Programme will be implemented as an intervention, with several sessions according throughout the week.

SEN

SEN pupils are fully involved in R.W.I. lessons as all pupils work in ability groups and teaching is geared to the speed of progress of each group. 1:1 tuition will be identified by the RWI manager if required.

Able pupils are catered for as groups are based on ability and there is the flexibility to accommodate gifted younger pupils in other groups.

ASSESSMENT AND RECORDING

Children are assessed throughout every lesson. Every time partner work is used the teacher assesses the progress of the children. The teacher assesses how children:

- read the grapheme chart
- read the green and red word lists
- decode the ditty/story
- comprehend the story

Formal assessment is carried out periodically by the R.W.I. Teacher and Manager using the R.W.I. phonic checks. This indicates the correct access point for new entrants.

MONITORING AND REVIEWING

The R.W.I. manager

- assigns leaders to groups
- 'drops in' on R.W.I. groups to give advice and to informally check that pupils are in the correct groups
- where necessary models lessons
- attends up-date meetings when they occur and reports back to the R.W.I. Teachers
- speaks with the headteacher regarding groupings, teaching spaces and other pertinent matters
- is responsible for reporting to the governors about the quality of the implementation of R.W.I. and the impact on standards.

Policy written by: C. Jones

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