



Phonics - It's What We Do

Systematic Synthetic Phonics (SSP) is an approach which teaches children to recognise letters (graphemes) and their associated sounds (phonemes). It involves breaking down the word into the smallest units of sound.

Systematic Synthetic Phonics is the route to reading for all learners, whatever age they start on their reading journey.

Since 2021, it has been a requirement that schools use an SSP scheme validated by the Department for Education. We chose to use Read Write Inc (RWI), which is the UK's leading SSP scheme in 2019. It takes learners through the processes of learning to decode, and on to building fluency and comprehension.

When pupils complete the scheme, they are fluent, confident readers who are able to read for meaning.

Through careful assessment, we are able to identify gaps in phonic knowledge and closely match RWI lessons and texts to the needs of the pupils. This ensures all pupils access a phonics curriculum that meets their needs and enables them move towards becoming fluent readers.

Continuous assessment is used by group leaders to identify children who have improved or are struggling and need to change groups in between assessments.

Phonics assessment usually takes place every half term and sounds not known are recorded on "fill the gaps" individual recording sheets. The group leader will then address these during phonics lessons.

On these sheets, other areas of focus are also noted, e.g.: 'not applying sounds to nonsense words or not sight reading the speedy green words instantly', and these also inform priorities for daily group sessions.

Every Friday, book changes occur for RWI at the same time as for those children who have progressed to the Ninja reading scheme.

Monitoring and coaching happens weekly, when our phonics lead is released. She will identify areas of need or support and focus on addressing these. This ensures consistency and fidelity to the scheme.

Planning is in the blue folder along with all other necessary documentation to support leaders and children, eg order of sounds, handwriting formation of letters, sound mats, fill the gaps recording sheets, current individual assessment paper, reading record sheet etc.

Children who complete the RWI programme are assessed using the Salford Reading test and then follow the Ninja reading scheme and timetable for reading as shown for KS2.

Children will also explore a range of stories and texts in their English lessons and as part of their shared reads.

