

*Welcome  
to St Leo's and Southmead  
Catholic Nursery and  
Primary School*



*Nurture, Inspire, Succeed*

*Phonics Policy*

*2022/2023*

## *Our Vision*

*As part of the St Leo's and Southmead family; our children are happy, resilient and successful. Our school community is enriched by positive role models who nurture and support; delivering a curriculum which embraces memorable opportunities and lifelong skills.*

## *Our Promise*

*Nurture*

*Inspire*

*Succeed*



We will provide a safe, warm and welcoming environment where everybody is valued

We will develop the whole child through our pastoral approach where inclusive attitudes are modelled every day

We will celebrate the skills, talents and natural abilities of everybody in our school community

We will deliver exciting and memorable learning opportunities through our creative curriculum in order to provoke thoughts, dreams and life-long goals

We will guide our children so that they are eager to exceed their full potential in all that they do

We will encourage confidence and risk taking through quality first teaching, effective feedback and challenge

## *Our Values*

*Everybody is valued  
We are all role models  
Talents are celebrated  
We never give up*

**'Nurture, Inspire, Succeed'**

## Our Mission Statement

“Though we are many, we are one body in union with Christ.”

*Romans 12:5*

**Learning and Growing as One Family through  
God's Love!**

**F**aith

**A**mbition

**M**aking Memories

**I**nclusive for All

**L**earning in Love

**Y**oung and Old Together

*Nurture, Inspire, Succeed*

## Our Aims and Objectives

### Learning as One Family

- Offer an inclusive education for all
- Enable all to work together in order to succeed
- Celebrate the progress and achievements of all
- Deliver a broad and balanced knowledge and skills-based curriculum
- Have high expectations for all within our school family
- Consistently deliver quality teaching and learning
- Give high priority to the teaching of basic skills in Maths and English
- Offer opportunities for learning outside of the classroom
- Raise awareness of opportunities for all in order to set high aspirations
- Seek the views of all stake holders
- Provide parents and carers with regular updates reading their child's progress

### Growing as One Family

- Give opportunity for all to be positive role models
- Foster togetherness for our own school family and the wider Global Community
- Support personal, spiritual and emotional development
- Develop trusting and nurturing relationships
- Promote resilience for all
- Encourage teamwork, collaboration and co-operation
- Provide opportunities to make memories beyond the classroom door
- Deliver quality daily collective worship
- Support the Parish in preparing children for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion
- Create an atmosphere of mutual respect, acceptance and forgiveness



*Nurture, Inspire, Succeed*

# **ST LEO'S AND SOUTHMEAD CATHOLIC PRIMARY** **SCHOOL** **PHONICS POLICY**

Reading opens the door to learning. A child who reads a lot and is exposed to a wide range of reading opportunities will become a good reader. A good reader will be able to read more challenging material. A child who reads challenging material is a child who will learn. The more a child learns, the more he or she will want to find out.

At St Leo's and Southmead Catholic Primary we believe that fostering the love of reading is the key to all learning and as such children are exposed to books on a daily basis from the moment that they enter our school.

As a school we teach synthetic phonics as the initial, and most important, approach to the teaching of reading. Our pupils learn to read effectively using the Read Write Inc Phonics Programme which is a systematic programme for the teaching of phonics, reading, spelling and writing.

We want all pupils at St Leo's and Southmead Catholic Primary to learn to read with confidence, to develop a love of reading and apply their skills competently to their writing. We use a consistent and structured approach to support a smooth transition as children progress and gain skills.

## **Aims**

### **Our aims are:**

- To ensure a consistent approach, to the teaching of phonics, across the school.
- To ensure that children are given opportunities to use and apply their phonics learning.
- To ensure that all children use phonics, as their first approach, when reading.
- To ensure that all children entering KS2 are secure at decoding unfamiliar texts.

### **The Read Write Inc Programme is for:**

- Pupils from Foundation Stage 1 to year 2 who are learning to read and write.
- Any pupils in Year 2, 3 and 4 who need to catch up rapidly.

### **In Read Write Inc pupils:**

- Decode using letter sound correspondence
- Read common exception words on sight
- Develop reading comprehension
- Read with fluency and expression
- Spell by segmenting the sounds in words

# Organisation of Phonics

The RWI approach is:

- Initial sounds are 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.
- Children are taught that the number of graphemes in a word always corresponds to the number of phonemes. This greatly aids spelling.
- Set 2 sounds are taught after Set 1 (initial sounds)
- Letter names are introduced with Set 3.

***The RWI approach is taught considering the 5 P's:***

**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).

## Foundation Stage

### Foundation Stage 1 -Nursery

During the Autumn and Spring term, children in Nursery spend their RWI time listening to, learning and joining in with carefully chosen stories, rhymes, poems and songs. They then use this to role-play together, grow vocabulary and build sentences orally and make up stories through planned talk experiences.

In the summer term, the focus of learning at this stage is to learn the initial letter sounds and introduce oral blending through 'Fred Talk' (throughout the day). This will progress to letter sound blending and segmenting for writing by the end of FS1. Children are taught the correct letter formation using the RWI mnemonics and we ensure that children achieve the correct pencil grip by the end of the Foundation Stage. It is our aim that all children leave Foundation Stage being able to orally blend and know all initial letter sounds in set 1 to be on track to reach the expected standard for the Year 1 phonics screening check.

### Foundation Stage 2 -Reception

The children in the Foundation Stage 2 are taught daily phonic lessons. In the first six weeks of Foundation stage 2, the initial sounds are revised in class groups. After this period of the children are individually assessed and grouped according to their stage. Children will receive daily phonics teaching in these groups using the structured speed sounds lesson plan.

It is our aim that all children leave Foundation Stage 2 at green RWI band to be on track to achieve the expected standard for the Year 1 phonics screening check

## Key Stage One

The children in Key Stage One are assessed half termly and are taught phonics in small groups where children are placed depending on their stage not age. They have a daily Read Write Inc Lesson lasting 40 minutes. This lesson starts with a 20 minute speed sounds lesson which teaches oral blending, new and revision of sounds, decoding of words, decoding of 'alien words' and spelling using decoding skills. The remainder of the session uses a closely matched phonetically decodable book to read and comprehend over a 3 day plan.

At St Leo's and Southmead Catholic Primary we do not want any child to fall behind their peers in learning. A major focus of the RWI programme is 'to keep up not catch up' Children who fall into this category are quickly identified through the rigorous 6 weekly assessment. Any child who is seen not to be on track to reach the age related expectation is given either daily 'Pinny time' or a more formal 10 mins intervention programme daily depending on the individual needs.

Children in Year One will be assessed at the end of Year One with the national Phonics Screening Attainment test. If they do not meet the threshold they will be rescreened in Year 2.

It is our aim that children in Year 2 are off the Read Write Inc programme by the end of the autumn term in Year 2, where they will move on to an alternative programme to develop their reading, spelling, handwriting and wider literacy skills.

All classrooms and teaching spaces across the school will display the RWI Speed Sounds chart to help children with their reading and spelling

## Key Stage Two

The expectation at St Leo's and Southmead Catholic Primary is that by the time children complete the transition from Key Stage One to Key Stage Two they will have completed the RWI phonics programme. Their phonic development will continue to be explicitly taught through the Ruth Miskin spelling programme throughout Key Stage Two.

Those children who have not reached this level by the time they leave Key Stage One will continue to access the RWI programme and receive additional targeted intervention to ensure they 'catch up' with their peers. A small number of children may reach upper KS2 and continue to require support for reading. These children will then be assessed and complete a more age appropriate reading programme called 'Fresh Start' which, like RWI, will teach the children the reading and comprehension skills required at this development stage in a more age appropriate way using anthology texts rather than story books. Similarly, to the RWI programme, Fresh start pupils are assessed, and progress is reviewed on a half termly basis.

## Additional Support for lower attaining pupils

Pupils in the lowest attaining groups often have the widest variety of needs. These pupils will have one-to-one tutoring for 10 minutes in addition to their group sessions in a morning. This tutoring helps us meet their individual needs. The effectiveness of these sessions and the impact on progress will be regularly evaluated by the reading leader.

## Assessment and Monitoring

All children on the RWI phonics programme will be assessed half termly by the RWI leader for consistency. The RWI leader will then group children according to ability. This ensures that children receive targeted teaching quickly according to their needs. Children who are moving quicker than their peers are moved into a different group and those who are not maintaining progress will be given additional support.

## Feedback

We emphasise constructive feedback. For example, we ensure children are praised for how hard they work together to ensure that their learning is successful. In our feedback policy we have clear systems for responding to children's learning which is adhered to throughout our RWI sessions.

## Home learning

Whilst this programme does not have specific home learning we endeavour to involve and educate parents in supporting phonics and reading at home through parent workshops and information sessions. Through the rigorous assessment of pupils throughout this scheme we can ensure that pupils receive phonetically decodable books to take home for reading. The children will receive both the book they have explored within the Read Write Inc sessions and a "Book Bag Book" to read at home each week. These books are changed three times a week and parents/carers are encouraged to record how their child reads books given within their individual reading record. Advice to support parents on completing reading records is given during the parent workshops in the autumn term and a document is on the reading page on the school website.

In addition, weekly RWI videos are uploaded to Class Dojo from the Ruth Miskin website to support those children who are receiving interventions. These videos are fitted to the children's needs in order for them to progress. This additional learning is set by the RWI leader and details of it are shared with parents. The RWI leader monitors this and will contact parents as necessary to offer further support and encouragement.

## RWI Leader Role

A key element of Read Write Inc is consistent whole-school practise. This is underpinned by appropriate professional development. St. Leo's and Southmead Catholic Primary ensure that all teachers and teaching assistants are trained in this approach to teaching reading. All staff have received regular Development Days throughout the school year supported by a consultant from the Ruth Miskin training team; attend weekly phonic CPD sessions within school where an element of the RWI programme is discussed, taught and practised in a supportive way; receive daily, in lesson support for the teaching of the RWI programme from the RWI Leader and have access to training videos and additional support materials via the Ruth Miskin school portal.

It is the role of the RWI Leader to ensure that all RWI lessons are effective and that teachers are given the necessary training and CPD to deliver this effectively.

The reading leader assesses pupils every half term and rearranges groupings and one to one intervention accordingly.

**Date policy written:** September 2022

**Policy Written by:** Mrs Claire McGuinness

**Date to be reviewed:** January 2024