



St James' First School

Reading Curriculum Overview

Introduction	1
Intent.....	1
Implementation	1
Impact	2

Introduction

At St James', we believe that our most important job is to teach children to read. Our intent is, not only to ensure children are fluent and functional readers by the time they enter Key Stage 2, but also that we nurture a love of reading. Through our extensive reading curriculum, we intend for our children to develop the comprehension and fluency skills to be successful life-long readers, therefore gaining the necessary skills to progress in all other areas of the curriculum.

Intent

At St James', our intent is to nurture a love of reading as we recognise that reading is key to unlocking the rest of the curriculum and future success. Through our carefully sequenced reading curriculum, we seek to develop effective word reading and comprehension skills in order for all children to become successful, life-long readers. Our reading spine comprises of classics texts, as well as new releases to foster appreciation of a range of text types. Reading feeds our children's imaginations and opens up a treasure-trove of wonder and joy for inquisitive young minds thirsty for inspiration.

We encourage our children to read widely across fiction, non-fiction and poetry to enable them to develop awareness of themselves and the world in which they live. Our hope is for our children to read for pleasure and enjoyment. Our desire is for our children to leave St James' having read and studied a diverse range of books, which broaden their cultural capital in order to help them understand the role they play in our global community. Through class book reviews, we encourage the children to reflect on their reading and recommend books to their peers. Our children can talk confidently about their favourite authors and identify connections with the books they read. We seek to offer engaging and stimulating reading environments through designated book areas in classrooms and through our well-equipped school library where our recommended reads take pride of place.

Implementation

At St James C.E. First School, we aim to foster a life-long love and enthusiasm for reading for enjoyment and pleasure. In order to achieve this, we use high-quality texts at the heart of our reading curriculum.

In addition to this, across all curriculum areas, we provide opportunities for children to practise and apply their reading skills. As a school, we emphasise the importance of developing a rich and varied vocabulary to ensure confidence and understanding when encountering unfamiliar words in their reading.

In the EYFS and Year 1, we deliver a systematic, synthetic phonics programme through a Department for Education approved programme: Read Write Inc. The children learn the forty-four phonemes (sounds) and their corresponding graphemes (letters that represent the sound). They learn to speedily recognise sounds through pictures and phrases,



and to orally segment and blend the sounds in words. The children also learn how to write the phonemes within words. They have access to high-quality, decodable reading books to match their phonic knowledge in order to be able to read with confidence and fluency.

In Key Stage One and Two, we deliver reading sessions through the use of VIPERS. This is a whole-class approach, using high-quality texts to develop comprehension and word reading skills. These lessons include a focus on the development and understanding of higher-level vocabulary. We use VIPERS to model the teaching of essential reading skills in order for our children learn how to engage with and have a deeper understanding of the texts they read.

We have a newly-refurbished library filled with high-quality reading material. The texts are regularly audited and refreshed to reflect a progressive and diverse world view. The children have regular library sessions to teach them the skills needed to choose an appropriate book and encourage them to read for pleasure. Throughout the year, we have events promoting the love of reading such as author visits, World Book Day and book fayres.

Through our recommended book lists, we encourage and celebrate the reading achievements of the children and ensure that parents are aware of age-appropriate books. Our children are encouraged to read regularly at home and record in their reading records. The schools main reading scheme is 'Oxford Reading Tree' however this is supplemented with other texts. The children in Read Write Inc groups take home purely phonetically decodable books which reflect their learning in class.

Throughout the school, the children enjoy a daily 'Love to Read' session. These are ten-minute sessions whereby the class teacher shares high-quality, carefully selected texts from a range of genres which promotes deeper meanings, as well as an understanding of the wider world. Through these texts, the children will be encouraged to explore our school values of love, hope and truth and develop their breadth of vocabulary.

We recognise the importance of building strong home-school partnerships which enable parents and carers to understand and support the skills and reading ethos of the school. Throughout the year, the children work towards the 'Wild for Reading' challenge where they earn badges for regular reading. There is the expectations that children read at least three times a week.

Impact

As a result of our Reading Curriculum, our pupils are able to read with accuracy, confidence, fluency and understanding. Importantly, they are able to access reading across the curriculum. Both formative and summative assessment are used to assess understanding and track progress. Support is put in place to ensure that children who are not meeting targets are supported to thrive. It is expected that every child will leave St James' C.E. First School with a good level of reading to enable them to successfully take the next steps in their education.