



## Curriculum Aims

### Subject – Phonics



#### **Aims & content of the Phonics curriculum at Mount Primary**

- To deliver high-quality phonic teaching which secures the crucial skills of word recognition that, once mastered, enable children to read fluently and automatically enabling them to concentrate on the meaning of the text.
- To establish consistent practice, progression and continuity in the teaching and learning of phonics and spelling throughout the school.
- To differentiate phonics and spelling work according to the needs of pupils, so that all pupils are given sufficient challenge at a level at which they can experience success.
- To give children word work strategies that will enable them to become fluent readers and confident writers.

#### **How do you know children have learned that knowledge?**

The Letters and Sounds curriculum for phonics aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Can segment and blend sounds in order to read them phonetically.
- Can decode words as a means to be able to read them by sight.
- Children are able to identify and read the 40+ graphemes taught across phases 2-5.
- Children will understand and be able to read words that cannot be sound out phonetically e.g. 'tricky words'.

#### **How the Phonics curriculum caters for all learners**

At Mount Primary we aim to encourage all children to reach their full potential through the provision of varied opportunities to access phonics. We recognise that our phonics planning must allow pupils to gain a progressively deeper understanding of the phonetic structure of the English language as they move through the school to ensure all children are provided with the key tools needed to become a fluent reader. Careful thought and planning is given to the provision of appropriately structured work for children with SEN, often through intervention groups. The Reading Eggs programme is used to cater for each child's individual gaps in phonics knowledge. Teachers at Mount Primary have developed a variety of strategies to enable all children to have increased access to the curriculum through a broad – based, multi-sensory, visual, auditory and kinaesthetically planned phonics sessions.

The most able children within our school are identified so that their individual needs are acknowledged. Careful planning ensures that the level of challenge is appropriate to suit their specific needs.

**How does your content selection develop pupils' cultural capital? (knowledge they need to become educated citizens – introducing them to the best that has been thought and said and to appreciate human creativity and achievement).**

At Mount Primary School we believe there is no greater skill that we can teach a child than how to read fluently and for enjoyment, thus opening a world of endless learning possibilities and academic success. We believe that if children have a positive start with early reading and phonics it will have endless benefits across all areas of learning. Numerous studies have shown that when children learn to read at an early age, they have a greater general knowledge, an expanded vocabulary, become more fluent readers and flourish with creativity and use imagination.

At Mount Primary we follow our own approach based around Letters and Sounds 2007 which includes appropriate resources, high-quality staff training and achieves strong results. This programme aims to prepare children for learning to read by developing their phonic knowledge and skills. It sets out a detailed and systematic programme for teaching phonic skills for children. We use Oxford Reading Tree decodable books matched to pupils' phonic knowledge.

Children begin with Letters and Sounds phase 1 in their early years and begin phase 2 in our foundation stage. Children progress through the phonic phases with the intent of being secure in phase 5 by the end of year 1.

Our phonics curriculum aims to support children and help them to access the phonics screening test in Year 1, or Year 2 if needed. At Mount Primary all pupils are entitled to a high quality phonics curriculum, which is adapted and tailored to meet the needs of all individuals. This includes catering for visual, aural and kinaesthetic learners with engaging resources to make learning fun.

At Mount Primary we provide daily phonics sessions which allow pupils to develop and enhance their segmenting and blending skills in order to become fluent and confident readers. Children have whole class daily phonics sessions which then progress into smaller, differentiated groups. Children participate in a range of activities to help to develop their reading, writing and spelling, each tailored to their personal needs. The phonics groups are assessed and reviewed each half term to ensure children are being challenged and are reaching to their full potential, as well as identifying any children who may need additional phonics support.