

Woodfall Primary and Nursery School

Early Reading and Phonics Policy

November 2021



Written: November 2021 (Michelle Harrahill)

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Intent

At Woodfall Primary and Nursery School we aim to create life-long learners who have a passion for reading for the rest of their lives. Reading for pleasure is a key aspect of the curriculum and the basis for teaching children to read.

We recognise the importance of teaching a systematic synthetic phonics programme to prepare children for learning to read by developing their phonic knowledge and skills.

At Woodfall Primary and Nursery School, we use the Read Write Inc (RWI) programme to get children off to a flying start. RWI is a method of learning centred around letter sounds and phonics, and we use it to aid children in their reading and writing.

Reading opens the door to learning. A child who reads a lot 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.

Implementation

1. Teaching and Learning:

The RWI scheme advocates that lessons should be delivered using the 5 Ps:

- Pace - good pace is essential to the lesson
- Praise/Positive Teaching - children learn more effectively in a positive climate
- Purpose - every part of the lesson has a specific purpose
- Participation - a strong feature of RWI lessons is partner work (based on research which states that we learn 70% of what we talk about with our partner)
- Passion - this is a very prescriptive programme. It is the energy, enthusiasm and passion that group leaders put into the lesson that bring the teaching and learning to life!

Using RWI, the children learn to read effortlessly so that they can put all their energy into comprehending what they read. It also allows them to spell effortlessly so that they can put all their energy into composing what they write.

When using RWI to read the children will:

- learn 44 sounds and the corresponding letter/letter groups using simple picture prompts

- learn to read words using Fred Talk
- read stories featuring words they have learned to sound out
- show that they comprehend the stories by answering questions.

When using RWI to write the children will:

- learn to write the letters/letter groups which represent 44 sounds.
- learn to write words by saying the sounds in Fred Talk
- write simple sentences

Children are taught phonics in groups with other children working at the same or very similar ability as they are.

2. Assessment

Teachers (assisted by TAs) assess children's phonic and reading progress regularly. The TAs and teachers completing the assessments will seek advice from the Phonics Leader if needed. Children can be assessed outside of the routine assessments if identified by a teacher or TA.

Children take home books that match the Phonics RWI stage they have been assessed at. In F2 and Y1, children change these books twice a week as they then have chance to reread these books at home to aid fluency and comprehension.

When children have completed the RWI programme or are having difficulties moving from one stage to the next (at the higher end of the programme) they will be assessed using PM Benchmarking. These assessments will ascertain which colour-coded book children should take home. For children still on the RWI programme, they will therefore take home books: A RWI levelled book and a benchmark colour book.

Year 1 children undertake an unseen government 'Phonics Screening Check' which requires them to read, using their phonics skills, real and non-real words. Results are reported to parents. This Screening Check is repeated again in Year 2 for children who did not meet the required standard in Year 1.

This policy should be read alongside Woodfall's English Policy and Woodfall's Reading for Pleasure policy.