

St. Bede C of E Primary Academy



Approach to Reading Policy

At St. Bede we aim to promote a love of reading as well as ensuring that our children become skilled and fluent readers.

In Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 we use letters and sounds daily to teach phonics and introduce children to the letter sounds that form the basic reading skills. Phonics sessions are delivered every day and the children are grouped according to the phonics stage they are working at. During these phonics sessions children will:

- Learn that sounds are represented by written letters;
- learn each sound and the corresponding letter/letter groups using simple picture prompts;
- learn how to blend and segment sounds.

At St. Bede we also teach Guided Reading and deliver 1:1 sessions across all Key Stages. As part of these sessions children will practise their reading with an adult and learn to use a variety of reading strategies. The children read a selection of texts featuring words they have learned to sound out and focus on reading these words within sentences. As children progress through the Key Stages, they are encouraged to read a range of texts fluently and independently. We try our best to ensure the children have access to a wide range of fiction and non-fiction and we aim to challenge our children by providing more complex and difficult texts.

Children show that they comprehend the texts they have read by answering questions and locating information. They make predictions about what could happen in a text and are encouraged to ask and answer questions about the characters and events they have read about. Children are also asked to clarify any words that they don't know the meaning of by reading the word in context, or using a dictionary to find out the definition.

We actively encourage children to use their reading skills in every lesson and provide opportunities to do so in all subjects. The School Library Service provides access to many books which support our curriculum topics and allow children to research subjects independently.

We also feel that sharing books is important and we provide opportunities for older and younger children to have time to read together. Every class at St. Bede is paired and children are given 'reading buddies' so that they can share books and reading experiences together. This makes a big difference to the reading confidence of all children involved, as well as being an enjoyable experience.

Each child is given a home/school Reading Record to encourage children to read at both home and school. We ask that the Reading Record is completed every time they read at home and we encourage children to read with an adult at least 5 times a week. Reading Records are checked on a weekly basis and children are rewarded for their home reading.

We encourage parents, grandparents and carers to read to children and talk about books as often as possible. Not only is this a lovely time to spend together, it's also invaluable in developing and extending the vocabulary which children can bring to their speaking and listening, reading and writing. Read books to your child, and enjoy ~ when your child sees you enjoying reading they will feel positive and motivated to do the same. Every time you read with your child you are investing in their future!