

Cribden House School Approach to Reading Policy



At Cribden House School we aim to promote a love of reading as well as ensuring that our children become skilled and fluent readers. For our phonics teaching, we use Active Learn (Bug Club) based on Letters and Sounds. Phonics is taught daily introducing children to the letter sounds that form basic reading skills. Phonics sessions are delivered daily and the children are grouped according to the phonics phase 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.

We have a diverse range of social and learning needs at Cribden House School. We recognise that some children have a range of complex learning difficulties, Autism, Sensory processing difficulties and/or Speech, language and Communication needs; and it is this combination of two or more challenges that the curriculum is designed to meet by a personalised learning approach.

Specifically linked to reading, our semi-formal curriculum is delivered through a thematic based approach using the ethos of Early Years - unique child; positive relationships; and enabling environments. The curriculum is designed to be fun, engaging, practical and meaningful and matched to pupil learning and developmental needs. Regardless of the physical, emotional and learning challenges faced by the pupils due to their special educational needs and disabilities, teaching through our semi-formal curriculum captures the interest and imagination of our pupils.

At Cribden House we also teach Guided Reading and deliver 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. For children accessing phonics, all guided reading books are linked to the phonics phase the children are currently at. 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. Bug Club provides access to many books which support our curriculum topics and allows children to research subjects independently. One to one reading takes place several times per week, allowing each child to further develop their skills in an independent way. We also feel that sharing books is important and we provide opportunities for older and younger children to have time to read together. Each child is given the opportunity to read at both home and school. We will provide children the

opportunity to select books linked to their attainment level and key interests. Children will be provided with praise for completing and re-reading books. We encourage parents, grandparents and carers to read to children and talk about books as often as possible because this isn't just a lovely time to spend together, it's also invaluable in developing and extending the vocabulary 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!

This policy was written in September 2023

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