

# Phonics Introduction

**Nurturing ambition through a living faith in English at Darwen St James' is –**



**Nurture** – At Darwen St James' CE Primary Academy, we believe that every child can achieve great things. We provide a nurturing environment through Christian values where everyone feels happy, safe, secure and valued. We set high expectations for all our pupils, and we work hard to ensure they meet them. We believe that Literacy and Communication are key life skills and that it is our role, through the English curriculum, to help children develop the skills and knowledge that will enable them to communicate effectively and creatively with the world at large, through spoken and written language. Through a love of reading that is embedded within our school, we endeavour to help children to enjoy and appreciate literature and its rich variety.

**Ambition** – As a school, we aim to promote high standards of Language and Literacy by equipping children with a strong command of the spoken and written word, and to develop their love of literature through widespread reading both across the curriculum and at home. We use Growth Mindset language to promote resilience in the children's approach to learning. To nurture a love of reading and develop fluent communication skills, we also dedicate more time to phonics and English, this begins with our youngest learners down in Nursery all the way up to Year 6. All children across EYFS and KS1 have daily phonics and guided reading sessions, and children in KS2 have daily phonics and guided reading interventions if needed.

**Faith** - To make sure children have a successful attitude to their learning and ability, we have chosen 5 whole school values (Perseverance, Courage, Hope, Love and Friendship) and we adopt a Growth Mindset approach throughout school, including through our phonics lessons. We have developed a culture that allows children to have a go and to persevere when things are challenging. Our teachers and reading team support children through their phonics journey, offering support, guidance and high quality teaching, allowing the children to achieve their full potential.

**Citizens** – Through our phonics teaching, we aim to equip children with the life skills to play an active role as local, national and global citizens. Our staff recognise the barriers that children face in building phonics skills, and we offer tools and expertise to enable the best support for students. When students believe they can get smarter, they understand that effort makes them stronger. Therefore they put in extra time and effort, and that leads to higher achievement.