**Duke Street Primary School**

**Phonics Policy**

**Aims**

Phonics teaches children how to decode letters into their respective sounds, a skill that is essential for them to learn how to read unfamiliar words independently.

At Duke Street, we aim to establish consistent practice, progression and continuity in the teaching and learning of phonics and spelling throughout the school.

Children in Early Years and Key Stage 1 will receive daily, high quality, systematic phonics teaching, aimed at helping children make strong links between blending for reading and segmenting for spelling.

We aim to help our children to become fluent and confident readers and spellers with a strong phonological awareness.

**Planning**

We currently follow the teaching sequence from Letters and Sounds however, we are in a transitional process of starting a new phonics scheme, Lancashire Red Rose Letters and Sounds.

Each phonics session is approximately 20 minutes long, but lesson plans are flexible so that the teaching can reflect the extra time needed on a teaching point if required.

Phonics session consistently follow the structure of:

\*Revisit/Review

\*Teach

\*Practise

\*Apply

**Organisation**

**Reception**

Children are taught phonics in their key worker groups.

**Key Stage 1**

Children are all taught the Revisit/Review and Teach stage of the lesson by their class teacher. Children are then split into two groups and Practise and Apply their phonics with either their class teacher or teaching assistant.

Children are provided with daily opportunities to consolidate and deepen their knowledge and understanding, in line with expectations from the English Curriculum.

**Assessment and monitoring**

Children are monitored regularly and assessed at the end of each phase.

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| **Year Group** | **Autumn Term** | **Spring Term** | **Summer Term** |
| ***Reception*** | Revisit Phase 1 & Introduce Phase 2 | Phase 3 | Phase 4 |
| ***Year 1*** | Revisit Phase 4 & Introduce Phase 5 | Phase 5 | Phase 5 |
| ***Year 2*** | Revisit Phase 5 & Introduce Phase 6 through No nonsense spellings | Phase 6/No nonsense spellings | Phase 6/No nonsense spellings |

**Overview of each phase**

\*Phase One recognises the importance of developing good speaking and listening, this phase is generally completed at pre-school/nursery. Providing a home environment that is language rich will give your child the best start possible. Nursery rhymes, a bed time story and encouraging your child to talk and identify rhyming patterns (e.g. sat, cat, pat, rat) will provide a secure foundation for them to build on.

\*Phase Two marks the beginning of systematic, high quality phonic work. This is taught in discrete daily sessions in Reception, with lots of opportunities for children to use and apply their phonic knowledge and skills throughout the day. The children are introduced to grapheme – phoneme correspondences (GPC’s). As soon as the first few correspondences have been learned, children are taught to blend and segment with them.

\*Phase Three completes the teaching of the alphabet, and children move on to sounds represented by more than one letter. (e.g. ai, oo, ee, igh).

\*Phase Four is where children learn to read and spell words containing adjacent consonants. (e.g. spell, floor, black, clock).

\*Phase Five (taught throughout Year 1) introduces the idea that in English phonemes can be spelt in more than one way and most graphemes can represent more than one phoneme! (e.g. ai, ay, a\_e)

\*Phase Six (taught throughout Year 2): at this stage reading for the great majority of children should become automatic. However, proficiency with spelling usually lags behind proficiency with reading. During Phase 6 children focus on word specific spellings and broad guidelines for making choices between spelling alternatives.

**Phonics Screening Check**

The Phonics Screening Check is taken across England in June each year by children in Year 1 and any children in Year 2 who did not pass the check in the previous year. This assessment is used to check how well a child can use their phonics skills by reading 40 words and non-words. Non-words are a collection of sounds that follow phonics rules but do not mean anything e.g. sh-or-p.

**Phonics intervention**

During early Spring term, children currently in Year 1 in need of intervention are identified and take part in additional Fast Track phonics sessions three time per week in order to give them the best possible chance of passing the Phonics Screening Check.

In Autumn term, children in Year 2 who did not pass the Phonics screening check in Year 1 are put in intervention groups. They are taught through Bounce Back phonics three times per week. These children will re-sit the Phonics screening check in June in Year 2.

Children who do not pass the Phonics re-sit in Year 2 are closely monitored in Key Stage 2 and further intervention is given to support their needs.

**Terminology**

\*Phoneme: A phoneme is the smallest unit of sound in a word that can change its meaning (e.g. in /bed/ and /led/ the difference between the phonemes /b/ and /l/ signals the difference in meaning between the words bed, led).

\*Grapheme: A grapheme is a symbol of a phoneme, that is, a letter or group of letters representing a sound.

\*Blend: This means combining sounds to read a word e.g. the child would say the individual sounds s-i-t followed by the word sit.

\*Segment: This is the process of listening to the individual sounds within a word in order to spell it e.g. hearing the word dog and recognising the individual sounds d-o-g.

**Supporting children with SEND in Phonics**

At Duke Street, we have an inclusive, multi-sensory approach to teaching Phonics. We ensure high quality teaching and we are flexible in our approach to teaching Phonics. Some children may learn Phonics best through a ‘whole word approach’ and we ensure that any children who need Phonics intervention are supported effectively.

Policy reviewed: Spring 2022

Next review date: Summer 2022