



# Reading & Phonics Policy

## 2025

*Through Christ we believe, inspire, achieve.*

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Last Updated: 15th July 2025  
Agreed by Governors: July 2025  
Next Updated: July 2026

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***“Reading is important. If you know how to read, then the whole world opens up to you”***  
**Barack Obama**

## 1. Curriculum Intent

Reading has the highest priority at English Martyrs - we are determined that every child learns to read and develops a love of reading. The sharing of carefully selected texts will inspire children to be passionate about reading and will encourage our children to want to read both for pleasure and to further develop their knowledge and feed their curiosity. At English Martyrs we know that the ability to read is fundamental to pupils' ability to access the wider curriculum.

## 2. Reading and the National Curriculum

The programmes of study for reading at Key Stage 1 and 2 consists of 2 dimensions:

- Word reading
- Comprehension

It is essential that teaching focuses on developing pupils' competence in both dimensions; different kinds of teaching are needed for each.

## 3. Pupil Experiences

### Phonics

- Phonic skills are taught daily from EYFS through the Read Write Inc systematic synthetic phonics programme.
- Children are assessed on their phonetic knowledge half termly or sooner if a child is making rapid progress.
- Lessons are taught daily for 40 minutes to groups based on their phonetic understanding.
- For those children who are not working at the expected standard there are interventions 4 times a week.
- Meetings with parents take place in September to explain the teaching of phonics and links to supporting phonics videos are sent home regularly to parents.
- Phonics intervention for older children, we use Fresh Start for children in Years 5 and 6

## **Reading**

- Reading for pleasure is at the heart of the English curriculum. High quality texts are used during English and guided reading sessions.
- Children accessing Read Write Inc Phonics Programme read a decodable book everyday and are assigned two appropriate decodable books to read at home per week - one Book Bag Book and one online book via Oxford Owl.
- Once the children have completed the Read Write Inc programme they will then take part in a daily guided reading session.
- Pupils in Y1 - Y6 follow The Literacy Company's 'Pathways to Read' which develops vocabulary, reading and comprehension skills. These Guided Reading sessions take place throughout the week in Years 1 - 6.
- All children who are not accessing the Read Write Inc Programme will continue to read regularly with an adult
- Identified readers will be targeted with additional reading opportunities to build fluency and confidence in reading. In Years 4, 5 & 6 this is through the Reading Fluency Programme.
- Daily time for stories is a priority and time has been specially allocated at the end of each school day for this. Age appropriate class books/novels are carefully selected by teachers and include both traditional and contemporary literature, as well as poetry and non-fiction texts.
- There are recommended reading lists on the school website and paper copies given to parents during the Autumn term parents evenings.

## **Reading for Pleasure**

- Children will take home an age appropriate reading book for pleasure, chosen from their year group Resource Area.
- Books are made available for children to take home and share as a storytime read with parents. These are chosen from the classroom book corner.
- Reading Champions have been chosen to work closely with the reading team and to promote reading within their year groups (Y2-Y6).
- Range of initiatives to promote reading organised yearly, e.g. - bookshop visits, author visits.
- Reading Buddies from Year 6 visit other classes throughout the school to read and enjoy books with younger children.
- Every classroom has a reading area with a range of texts, covering a range of genres, authors and themes for children to choose books to take home and share
- Book crates in Reading Sheds are available on the playground for the children to access and enjoy books during their free time.
- Staff at English Martyrs model reading aloud most days when sharing the class text and story at the end of the day.
- 'Come and Read' sessions, when parents/grandparents/carers are invited to come into class and read with their child, are held throughout the year (Y1-4)
- World Book Day is celebrated each year.
- Upper Key Stage 2 organises ERIC time and hot chocolate is provided.
- Stories are regularly incorporated into our assemblies.
- 'Recommended Reads' are organised by Reading Champions and displayed on shelves in prominent places around the school.

- The school library is timetabled for use with each year group weekly, to give them time to both read themed books appropriate for their age and to have books read to them aloud.

#### **4. Rationale**

Our overarching aim in Reading is to educate our children so that they are able to understand the value and importance of reading and to also promote the pleasure and knowledge that can be gained from books.

#### **5. Equal Opportunities**

Inclusion is at the centre of everything we do at English Martyrs. We recognise the varying needs of all our learners, and so differentiate activities where necessary and as appropriate, and ensure an appropriate level of challenge is carefully planned for during each Design and Technology lesson.

Equal opportunities will be given to all children in respect of:

- Race
- Gender
- Culture
- Special Educational Needs

#### **6. Assessment and Record Keeping**

- Current Statutory Assessments:
  - EYFS baseline assessments
  - Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
  - KS2 National Curriculum Tests and Teacher Assessment ( Y6)
- NFER assessments are carried out termly for reading in both KS1 and KS2
- Children's reading ages are monitored through the 'Lexplore' programme.
- Children are assessed half-termly for their phonics
- Formative assessment is used daily to inform planning.

#### **7. Cross Curricular Links**

Reading is a skill that is needed to access all subjects within the curriculum

Interesting, engaging, informative texts will be used to enhance learning across all curriculum subjects. These are outlined in our:

#### **8. Resources**

- Read Write Inc Phonics, Read Write Inc Comprehension and Read Write Inc Fresh Start resources are kept in the small teaching room
- English resources are mostly kept in individual classrooms with e-copies available online
- Age-appropriate home reading books are located in year group resource areas and class reading corners.
- All year groups have access to age-appropriate dictionaries and thesauruses.

## **9. Health and Safety**

Staff will refer to current Health and Safety practices, safety regulations and safeguarding requirements.

## **10. Monitoring of the English Policy**

The implementation of the Reading policy will be monitored by the team of Reading Leaders, the English Subject Leader and members of the SLT

Areas of priority and focus relating to reading will be highlighted within the School Development Plan.

## **11. Evaluation of Policy**

Evaluation should take into account the following aspects:

- Implementation and coverage of the National Curriculum requirements for reading.
- Review of purchased schemes to ensure consistency and effectiveness.
- Progress of the children in line with key objectives, planning issues and staff needs as regards training and support;
- Staff development;
- Any issues arising from teaching, regards common problems or difficulties;
- Children who have not reached the age related expectations;
- Children with SEND.