

**SINAI JEWISH PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**'Big School, Big Heart, Big Opportunities'**

## READING CURRICULUM

### INTENT

Our reading curriculum is dedicated to nurturing enthusiastic, lively readers and writers with a comprehensive understanding of the English language. Founded on the principle that mastery of phonics is vital for engaging with a diverse range of literary texts, both fiction and non-fiction, our approach emphasizes the importance of phonics for effective communication. We strive for all children to read well and quickly, recognizing the significant role of reading in enriching lives and enhancing learning across the curriculum. Our goal is to instil a profound love for reading and high-quality texts, understanding its transformative power. This emphasis on phonics extends beyond mere reading proficiency; it lays the groundwork for enthusiastic and skilled reading and writing across various genres and purposes, ensuring our students are well-equipped to explore and express complex ideas and narratives.

### IMPLEMENTATION

To ensure every child learns to read effectively and efficiently, we have adopted Essential Letters and Sounds (ELS). It is fundamental to our approach, teaching children to decode words fluently by understanding the relationship between phonemes and graphemes. Our early reading strategy begins in EYFS and Year 1, with daily 20-minute phonics sessions. ELS adopts a systematic synthetic phonics approach, crafted to complement an early learning setting abundant in dialogue and storytelling. This immersive environment not only cultivates a love for books and language but also accelerates the journey toward becoming fluent, independent readers and writers. The program meticulously guides children to decode by blending sounds within words for fluid reading and to encode by segmenting sounds for precise writing. From Year 3 through Year 6, our focus shifts to whole class guided reading sessions, utilising high quality texts to refine reading skills further. Additionally, from year 1 to year 6, children partake in weekly comprehension lessons tying texts to the broader curriculum themes and focusing on VIPERS skills for deeper understanding and analytical thinking. Reading for pleasure is central to our ethos, highlighted by reading aloud sessions and participation in national reading events, enriching students' literary experiences across a spectrum of genres. Our class libraries offer diverse selections, encouraging students to explore their interests. Reading records maintain a vital link between home and school, emphasizing the collective effort in nurturing proficient, joyful readers.

### IMPACT

Our reading curriculum fosters fluent, passionate readers, ensuring students attain a deep understanding of the English language, guided by phonics mastery and immersive engagement with high-quality texts. Our approach significantly enhances children's vocabulary and critical thinking skills, empowering them to articulate ideas with confidence and clarity. The curriculum is meticulously designed to not only prepare Sinai children for academic excellence but also to instil in them a love for lifelong learning. Our commitment to creating avid readers shines as students dive into a world of diverse texts, actively participate in national reading events and discover the transformative power of literature. This journey through the realms of fiction and non-fiction encourages students to explore broad horizons and embrace diversity, nurturing them into well-rounded individuals. By prioritizing reading, the Sinai curriculum lays a solid foundation for critical thinking and creativity, positioning our students as the next generation of informed thinkers, innovative writers, and societal change-makers.

### BIG OPPORTUNITIES

Our reading curriculum at Sinai is designed to offer students a broad spectrum of enriching experiences that extend beyond traditional learning methods, aiming to inspire and cultivate a deep appreciation for literature and its connection to writing. Cross-curricular opportunities are woven throughout our curriculum, ensuring that reading is integrated with other subjects. This approach enriches students' learning experiences, making connections between literature and topics. We are committed to exposing students to a diverse range of texts, carefully selecting materials that reflect a variety of cultures, backgrounds and genres. This diversity ensures all students see themselves represented in the stories they read and fosters an inclusive environment that values and celebrates different perspectives. By linking texts to the broader curriculum, we aim to make reading personally relevant and engaging for every child. World Book Day and Storytelling Week is a highlight of our calendar, where we emphasize the importance of reading in supporting writing. Through exploring authors and poets from diverse backgrounds, we inspire students to see themselves in these roles, building their confidence and aspirations. Our curriculum emphasizes the importance of non-fiction books in exploring a wide range of occupations, showing students how passions and strengths can lead to success in life. Through these comprehensive and immersive experiences, our reading curriculum aims to develop not just proficient readers but also inspired individuals who appreciate the power of literature to reflect and shape the world around them.

### KEY CONCEPTS, KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

#### **Key Concepts: Experiences, Independence, Oracy and Vocabulary**

Through rich literary experiences, we immerse students in a wide array of texts, fostering an environment where reading is not just a skill but a journey through diverse worlds and perspectives. This exposure is critical in developing their independence as readers, encouraging students to explore texts autonomously, make choices about their reading material and engage with texts at a deeper level. Oracy plays a pivotal role, as we emphasize the importance of spoken language in enhancing comprehension and analytical skills, allowing students to articulate thoughts and engage in discussions about their readings. Vocabulary building is seamlessly integrated into our curriculum, with targeted strategies to enrich students' language, enabling them to access and enjoy increasingly complex texts.

### ASSESSMENT

We assess reading with a systematic approach to identify and address individual needs. For children in Reception, Year 1 and KS2 students below Age-Related Expectations, Phonics Tracker is used at the end of each half term to detect phonics gaps and set the right reading level. Children reaching orange level undergo PM benchmarking every 3-4 weeks to evaluate their progress. Upon mastering White level reading, they transition to Accelerated Reader, where a STAR quiz assesses their comprehension and fluency at half term, determining their reading age. Years 1, 3, 4 and 5 complete NFER reading test each term, with results, reading age and weekly guided reading insights guiding teacher assessments whilst year 2 & 6 use previous SATS papers. Data is recorded on Arbor for termly analysis by the subject leader to assess if students are at, above or below ARE, ensuring targeted support for reading growth. This streamlined method provides a clear view of each student's reading progress, enabling effective interventions.