Destination Reader

At St Ignatius Catholic Primary School, we are committed to high achievement and equal opportunity for all. We encourage pupils to develop the confidence to read a variety of good quality texts, appreciating our rich and varied literary heritage. We are committed to equipping our pupils with the skills to acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, written and spoken language.

Destination Reader is a pedagogy (not a scheme) to teaching reading in Years 3-6. The approach involves daily sessions incorporating whole class modelling, independent reading and children applying these skills through partner talk. Each lesson blends a range of learning behaviours and reading strategies, which brought together, allow children to explore and understand texts independently at a deeper level.

Every lesson starts with the class discussing the chosen strand and the learning behaviour focus. This is followed by the adult delivering a ‘Think-Aloud’ to the class. Then the class do a ‘Class Think-Aloud’ together. Following this, the children will go into their groups or into partners to read further and “Think Pair Share” what they have read. At the end of the lesson, the class will be brought together to do a ‘Selfie’ either verbally or in their DR Books. Friday’s lesson can be used to do a ‘Big Picture,’ which is a lesson for answering comprehension questions based on an unseen text.

Teachers can initially concentrate on one strategy at a time so that they are able to support and challenge children to develop their skills through high expectations of oral and written use of the strategies. They can also be combined, as the children progress and can be applied to different forms of texts, such as poetry and nonfiction. These strategies equip children with a robust toolkit so that they can read with fluency, deep understanding and enjoyment.