

Fresh Start Reading Intervention

What is Fresh Start?

Fresh Start is a systematic synthetic phonics programme for struggling readers aged 9 – 13+. Pupils are taught at their challenge point, so they learn to read accurately and fluently.

What is Phonics?

All words are made up of individual sounds. These sounds are blended together to form words.

e.g. in 'mat' we have the sounds 'm', 'a', 't', ship – 'sh', 'i', 'p'.

A grapheme is another name for the letters we use to write the sound. It's the spelling of a sound on the page.

Using phonics, children learn to read by saying each sound and blending them to read a word.

Children learn to spell by segmenting a word into sounds and writing the matching graphemes.

This gives children the tools to read any word, for example demonstrate, containing, roamed, trivial, injured, whimper.

We use 44 sounds to make all the words in the English language.

This means we've got a problem - we've got 44 sounds and only 26 letters.

The 26 letters work singly, in pairs and sometimes in threes to represent one sound.

We have to group letters together to write some sounds e.g. 'igh', 'air'.

In English we have more than 150 ways to represent 44 sounds, using the 26 letters in the alphabet. This makes our language one of the most complex in the world!

Who is Fresh Start for?

Fresh Start is for older students who are not yet reading age appropriately. They may not have met national expectations at the end of Key Stage 2, they may have missed schooling or are late arrivals into school. They may be new to the UK education system and are learning English as an additional language.

How does Fresh Start work?

Fresh Start provides intensive, targeted support to address specific gaps in a student's reading.

Fresh Start teaches each student at their challenge point to accelerate progress.

Students are taught to read sounds, words and the matched decodable reading Modules. The student learns to read the first set of sounds, and then how to blend the sounds together to read words. They then read simple texts containing the sounds they know, alongside learning more sounds, ready for the next set of Modules.

Fresh Start at The Orme Academy:

At The Orme Academy, we are committed to ensuring that any student who is at an early stage of reading is enrolled on the Fresh Start programme. These students work one to one with our reading mentor each day for 25 minutes sessions. We are very fortunate that our reading mentor is primary trained and has a wealth of expertise in this field.

