

# **Moorside Primary School**



## **Reading Policy**



## **MOORSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **PURPOSE, VISION & VALUES**

#### **Our Purpose**

Moorside Primary is a school at the heart of our diverse community in the West End of Newcastle.  
We pride ourselves in being a caring school community where everyone is welcome.  
We strive to deliver an outstanding education for all our children.  
We help everyone to become caring and active citizens  
We encourage everyone to thrive and achieve their full potential.

#### **Our Vision**

We want everyone in our school to work together to make us as good as any school can be.  
We want to create new opportunities for everyone to succeed.  
We want to create a culture which broadens all of our horizons.  
We want everyone to be able to tackle the challenges we will face in an ever changing world.  
We want all of our children to effectively engage with each other and with our community.

#### **Our values**

##### **We all believe that**

Our local community deserves a school they can be proud of  
We are a caring community where everyone is welcome  
We all value, respect and support each other  
Our community has the right to be safe and healthy.  
Our children should have the chance to enjoy and be enthused by their time in our school

##### **We all work together to make sure that**

Everyone always tries their best and take pride in all that they do  
Everyone demonstrates good manners at all times  
Everyone respects each other and show consideration  
Everyone respects and cares for our environment and resources  
Everyone celebrates each other's successes and achievements

# Reading Policy

## Rationale

Reading is a vital skill that will support children's learning across the whole curriculum. As a school, we are working to ensure that our children are taught to read with fluency, accuracy and understanding through a variety of discreet and cross-curricular learning opportunities. Above all, we want children in our school to become enthusiastic, independent and reflective readers. Essentially, we want children to develop a pleasure for reading.

In order for our children to fulfil their potential in reading we need as much parental support as possible and our aim, with this policy, is to demonstrate how school and home can work together.

## Our Teaching Philosophy

The development of reading cannot be seen in isolation from writing, speaking and listening/drama. The best readers are the best writers - we read as writers and write as readers! Strategies for writing, speaking and listening/drama form an integral part of this reading policy.

At Moorside Primary School, we strive to give pupils a stimulating environment, where reading materials are presented in an attractive and inviting way. Furthermore, within English lessons we create an environment that stimulates the generation of ideas from high quality texts where all ideas are accepted and valued.

Teachers act as role models in their enthusiasm for both reading and writing by keeping up to date with current children's literature.

## Aims

- We aim to enable our pupils to read confidently, fluently, accurately and with understanding.
- We aim to foster an interest in words and their meanings and to gain an appreciation of books from a variety of genres.
- Instill children with a love of reading that lasts for their lifetime, share with them an enthusiasm for children's literature and help children to recognise the value of reading as a life skill.
- Encourage children to become enthusiastic and reflective readers by introducing them to good quality books, from a variety of cultures and in a range of different styles and formats.
- Develop our children's understanding of a variety of text types including non-fiction, fiction, poetry and drama.
- Develop children's confidence, fluency, and independence when reading for different purposes.
- Develop children's abilities to reflect on and have an interest in what they have read and the language and punctuation choices made by the author.
- Use drama and role-play, where appropriate, to immerse children in the text.
- Ensure our children have sound phonic awareness and use a phonics first approach to reading.

## Teaching of Phonics

At Moorside Primary we have heavily invested in and implemented a high-quality phonics programme call Read, Write Inc (RWInc). As part of the programme we have placed funding into training teachers and teaching assistants in the correct method to teach this particular programme. This was to ensure that we have a common understanding between those that teach the programme to enable our pupils to get the same consistent approach regardless of who is teaching them. We have regular visits and development days with our RWInc consultant and during these days, staff are observed and given immediate feedback to ensure the high quality and consistent teaching of RWInc across EYFS and Key Stage 1. Pupil are assessed and grouped based on their progression through the RWInc colour system and this assessment should be carried out each half term, ensuring progress is made by all pupils. In KS2, children are identified through assessments such as the YARC. These children follow RWI Fresh Start program to close the gaps.

Our aim is to build on the progress pupils are making with phonics and apply these skills to their reading. The senior leadership team and middle leaders monitor progress consistently and identify at an early stage when pupils are beginning to struggle and are at risk of falling behind. We then implement the correct support and extra help where appropriate. We have also worked with the family learning team to provide parent/carer sessions to support parents to develop an understanding of RWInc and be able to support their young children with their learning.

For older pupils who join our school at different stages and have English as an additional language, we use a range of letter and sound recognition resources as well as implementing a RWInc fresh start programme.

### **Lexia Programme**

Lexia is a programme we have bought that has proven to be successful when supported by staff. Lexia Reading is a computerised reading program that provides phonics instruction and gives students independent practice in basic reading skills. Lexia Reading is designed to supplement regular classroom instruction.

Lexia's research-proven program provides explicit, systematic and personalized learning. According to the National Reading Panel, there are five critical skills that children must master in order to become proficient readers: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Lexia allows children to work independently at their own pace through personalised learning based on their current reading needs. Teachers are notified when children need support or intervention and are provided with the resources for face to face instruction.

### **Shared Reading:**

The whole class shares a text, which is targeted above their independent reading ability often using an enlarged text with the young children; this text is separate to the text they are reading in English. It may be chosen by the children or the teacher. Children at Moorside are exposed to a number of high-quality pre-selected texts that show progression throughout the year groups and key stages. Teachers are expected to base their English lessons around these texts, allowing the children to grasp a firm understanding of the text and acquire good vocabulary ready to apply to their own writing. Children need to develop a wide range of vocabulary to be able to make sense of the world around them. New vocabulary is acquired through being involved in a rich learning environment where good models of spoken language and written language are demonstrated, which is why we have invested in high quality texts for each class.

Shared reading is an interactive reading experience that occurs when children join in or share the reading of a book or other text whilst guided and supported by a teacher. It provides a context for teacher modelling and applying reading skills.

### **Guided Reading:**

Guided Reading takes place in a small group, with a teacher or teaching assistant, and focuses on developing children's ability to become independent readers, thinkers and learners. The children are grouped by ability and read individual copies of the same text, which matches the reading level of the group. The text needs to be at the instructional level. Texts are selected from the school's guided reading sets of books which are located in the atrium. The recommended teaching sequence is used by all teachers. The sequence is a book introduction, strategy check, individual reading and returning to the text. A file is kept in the classroom of evidence, possible question, possible activities, assessment information that can be accessed to allow for planning of guided reading lessons. These folders will be monitored by SLT to ensure guided reading is being taught regularly.

Guided reading occurs daily outside the English session and is based on a rotation during the week within the class. The children who are not engaged with adult led guided reading are given a purposeful activity to do independently e.g. spelling or vocabulary games, comprehension questions, pre-reading or a follow-up activity.

For those children who have not passed the screening test, two guided reading sessions a week are recommended. One will have a phonic focus and the other a comprehension focus.

### **Independent Reading Time**

The school has a library which can be accessed by all children. A timetable has been created providing each year group with a specific day to access the library. Children are able to select and read material which interests them, to assist them in fostering a genuine love of reading and to help them to appreciate its value. During this time, children will read either their school reading book, a book which they have chosen from the school library or a magazine or newspaper. The school has subscriptions to magazines and comics.

### **Whole Class Story Time**

Regular whole class story time takes place in classes across the school. Texts appropriate to topic work or objectives covered in the English lesson are read aloud by the teacher. These sessions also allow the teacher to check a child's comprehension, by asking literal and inferential questions, which aid deeper understanding of the plot and themes of the story, also increasing their vocabulary. These sessions take place in various locations around the school.

### **Reading partners**

We have found great success in our older children sharing books and stories with younger children on a daily basis. This is an opportunity for children to share stories they have enjoyed and give all children opportunities to discuss their views of a story with other children. It allows for opportunities for younger children to be exposed to more challenging texts and gives older children the opportunity develop their own understanding of a text when the opportunities for questioning arises. Reading buddies are a pairing of one older and one younger child that meet every day to share a story; the time should be determined by the class teachers.

### **Teachers as Readers**

Teachers and teaching assistants are expected to regularly recommend books and to share a passion for reading with the children.

### **Equal Opportunities**

In line with our Inclusion policies, we believe all children are entitled to high quality teaching and learning, with regard to reading and we embrace the philosophy of inclusion.

### **Special Educational Needs**

All pupils with special educational needs will follow the same educational curriculum as their peers, differentiated where necessary to meet their individual needs. When selecting a phonically decodable book for guided reading, teachers must ensure that it consolidates the teaching of recently taught phonemes and high frequency tricky words. Children who are making slow progress with their reading need to be heard read by an adult at least three times a week. Additional resources to support for children who are struggling to make progress with their reading will be directed by the SENCOS alongside the teachers.

### **Work with other Professionals**

SALT – LEAPs speech and language development also identifies children struggling to access specific reading skills.

Staff have had training to identify signs and symptoms in relation to dyslexia and children should be referred if there are any concerns.

### **Assessment and Monitoring of Progress**

At the start of the academic year, teachers use data from the previous class teacher to devise a reading priority list. Children who are not making the expected progress need to read to an adult at least three times a week. Pupil are assessed using the YARC. The data collected from the YARC is then analysed by the class teacher to inform their planning. The YARC categorises children into four quadrants based on their fluency in reading and comprehension skills. Teachers use this data as a base line to target gaps in pupils' learning and give each child personalised learning to close those gaps. The YARC is a tool to be used to inform planning, teachers should not use it ....

In Foundation Stage children's reading ability is assessed using development matters. Base lines are set out in the autumn term and updated regularly. Alongside this, children's phonics ability is assessed every half term to monitor progression through the RWInc scheme. This then informs the teacher's assessment and is used to update the assessment.

In Key Stage One, children still accessing phonics should be assessed every half term to monitor progress and movement throughout the RWInc stages. A practice phonics screening is also carried out in the spring term for children in Year 1 and children who are resitting in Year 2. Teachers can also assess children's reading ability using reading assessment sheets which we have for each child. These assessments are then put into the school tracking system at the end of each term.

In Key Stage two NFER tests for reading are administered in the autumn and spring terms across Key Stage Two. These help to inform teacher assessments for reading. Teachers can also assess children's reading ability using reading assessment sheets which we have for each child. These assessments are then put into the school tracking system at various points throughout the year.

### Book Areas in the Classroom

Each class has an established book area and these include the following:

- Non-fiction books linked to the class topic
- Book banded reading books
- Longer, more challenging texts
- Books which link to the genre being covered in literacy
- Picture books
- Dictionaries, Thesaurus and atlases

Books should be organised and be easily accessible to the children. Banded reading books are sorted into boxes, colour coded and labelled to assist with organisation. Children should be actively involved in the management of the area.

### Library areas in School

We have created two library areas which are timetabled for classes across the school to use. These have a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books including a range of dual language texts. The environment is welcoming and inviting and provides a space where children are able to access texts that interest them. It invites children to sit and share a text with others and provides opportunities for role play and drama. ***Children should also be actively involved in maintaining and managing this area; librarians are chosen from upper key stage two to check the maintenance of the library and possibly recommend books to those using the library. They could also show younger children how to use the library correctly e.g. putting books in to the correct place and on to the shelves correctly.*** However, it is each year group's responsibility to ensure the library and books are cared for and kept tidy.

### The Care of Books

If a book is lost or damaged, a letter will be sent home requesting that the child's parents or carers make a contribution towards the cost of replacing the book. All teaching staff will encourage children to treat books with care and respect. Caring for books should be reiterated by all adults and children should be shown how to care for books properly.

### Book Bags

Strong school reading folders are provided for every child from Reception to Year 6 at whatever point they join the school. In Playgroup and Nursery we provide a plastic book bag for each child.

### Parental Involvement and Home Reading

Parents are expected to share books with their children and hear their children read at home. Once the book has been shared with the parent, the parent or child can write a comment about the book in their reading record. The child will then be able to select a new book from the appropriate reading box. Pupils are expected to bring their reading record book into school every day allowing them to read a variety of texts throughout the week. This is monitored using a reading record folder, where all children have an individual sheet and they are expected to sign the books they take home, in and out with the date and title. These are readily available in a folder in all classrooms.

Information sessions for parents take place throughout the year and parents/carers are encouraged to come into school to support their children.

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