

St Hilda's CE Primary School Phonics Statement

At St Hilda's our aim is for all our pupils to become literate readers and writers. In order to do this, pupils need to develop a secure understanding of the letter sounds and spelling system of the English language. These phonic skills need to be developed in a structured and systematic manner.

The principles of the Letters and Sounds programme

At St Hilda's we provide a synthetic approach to the teaching of phonics through the Letters and Sounds programme. This begins in Foundation Stage and continues through Key Stage 1 and into Key Stage 2 where appropriate.

The programme is in six phases: phase one promotes speaking and listening skills, phonological awareness and oral blending and segmenting; phases two to five focus on high quality phonic work to help children develop fluent word reading and spelling skills.

Progression and delivery:

Pupils receive a discrete session of phonics a minimum of four times a week, following the teaching sequence of 'revisit, review, teach, practise and apply'. In addition, phonic skills can be applied in reading and writing opportunities as well as in other areas of the curriculum.

By assessing children's developing knowledge and skills, practitioners and teachers are able to judge the rate at which children are progressing through the programme and adapt the pace accordingly. Pupils are grouped according to the stage they are currently working at.

Tracking and assessment:

Children's progress is continually reviewed to allow for movement between ability groups, and children move phonics group when it is felt necessary to meet their needs. During daily sessions of phonics there are opportunities for practitioners to regularly assess children's understanding. Outside the discrete daily phonics sessions, there are opportunities to observe the application of phonic skills, e.g. during guided/ shared reading, shared writing/guided writing. Children are formally assessed at the end of each term.

Regular monitoring of the assessment outcomes allows teachers and practitioners to ensure that pupils are on track to make expected progress.

Year 1 Screening Check:

In the summer term of Year 1 every child will undertake a Phonics Screening Check. Children will be rechecked in Year 2 if they do not reach the expected level.