

Nelson Academy

Phonics Intent Statement 2021/22

At Nelson Academy, we are passionate about ensuring all children become confident and enthusiastic readers and writers. We believe that phonics provides the foundations of learning to make the development into fluent reading and writing easier. Phonics is the process that is used to help children break down words into sounds, as well as building letter and word recognition. This can then enable children to use unknown words in the future. Children learn to segment words to support their spelling ability and blend sounds to read the words.

Phonics at Nelson Academy uses the Department of Education guidance within "Letters and Sounds". This allows our phonics teaching and learning to be progressive from Nursery up to Year 2 as well as allowing children's listening and speaking skills to develop. In Nursery and Reception, Phonics is taught synthetically and progressively through whole class teaching input and small group activities. As we progress into Year 1 and 2, the teaching of phonics continues systematically whilst looking at where individual's need challenge or support. Where extra intervention is needed, this is then provided for children throughout Key Stage 1 and into Key Stage 2 when necessary.

There are six phases within our Letters and Sounds programme: -

- Phase 1 - Activities are divided into seven aspects. Environmental Sounds, Instrumental Sounds, Body Sounds, Rhythm and Rhyme, Alliteration, Voice Sounds and finally Oral Blending and Segmenting.
- Phase 2 – Learning 19 letters of the alphabet and one sound for each. Blending sounds together to make words. Segmenting sounds into their separate sounds. Beginning to read simple captions.
- Phase 3 – The remaining 7 letters of the alphabet, one sound for each. Graphemes such as "ch", "oo" and "th" representing the remaining phonemes not covered by single letters. Reading captions, sentences and questions. On completion of this phase, children will have learnt the "simple code", i.e. one grapheme for each phoneme in the English language.
- Phase 4 - No new grapheme-phoneme correspondences are taught in this phase. Children learn to blend and segment longer words with adjacent consonants, e.g. swim, clap, jump.
- Phase 5 - Now we move on to the "complex code". Children learn more graphemes for the phonemes which they already know, plus different ways of pronouncing the graphemes they already know.

- Phase 6 - Working on spelling, including prefixes and suffixes, doubling and dropping letters etc.

Right from their first day at Nelson Academy, children are provided with lots of opportunities to engage with books that fire their imagination and interest, motivating and exciting them to learn Phonics and become competent readers.