
READING - Intent, Implementation and Impact



'The overarching aim for English in the national curriculum is to promote high standards of language and literacy by equipping pupils with a strong command of the spoken and written language, and to develop their love of literature through widespread reading for enjoyment.' (NC, 2014)

Intent

Reading is at the very heart of our curriculum at St Augustine's. We believe that reading is integral to a child's understanding and appreciation of the world around them; it is a platform that allows our children to see beyond what they know, share in cultural experiences and develop the vocabulary they need to effectively express themselves. Our reading curriculum strives to foster a lifelong love of reading. We cultivate the behaviours our children will need to become discerning readers who read frequently and widely. We are committed to providing vocabulary rich reading.

Our curriculum is delivered through:

- a rigorous synthetic phonics programme 'Read Write Inc' (RWI)
- Whole class reading
- Accelerated Reader
- Home reading
- Reading across the curriculum
- Regular opportunities for independent reading

All of these are essential components in helping our pupils to become fluent, enthusiastic and critical readers. Furthermore, we know that reading pleasure is beneficial not only for reading outcomes, but for wider academic attainment, learning enjoyment and mental wellbeing.

Implementation

Throughout Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, reading is taught explicitly as part of the RWI phonics programme as well as in a 1:1 context. RWI operates a 'keep up, not catch up' approach to targeting any children who are struggling with the pace of learning, using tailored tutoring sessions in the afternoons to revisit specific sounds or rehearse key skills. In Key Stage 2, children participate in whole class shared reading, small group reading, 1:1 reading and daily story time. The 'Whole Class Reading' approach includes a daily reading lesson focused on whole class discussion and careful questioning from the teacher to develop understanding and build vocabulary.

From Year 2 onwards, the children use the Accelerated Reader programme which carefully matches each book to the child's current reading level. The child then completes an online quiz to be able to proceed to the next level. This ensures every child is reading a book at the right challenge level for them, so they experience success and enjoyment in reading. Children's progress through the scheme is carefully tracked so that any pupil who is not making good progress can be quickly identified and the right support put in place.

We celebrate reading through our reading challenge incentive, as well as national events like World Book Day. To enrich the children's experience and inspire them as readers and writers, we invite authors, poets and theatre companies in to lead assemblies and workshops. We use a wide variety of quality texts and resources to motivate and inspire our children. Various additional reading supports are in place to support those pupils who are currently working below age-related expectations in reading or who struggle with specific areas of reading.

Impact

The impact on our children is clear: progress, sustained learning and transferrable skills.

- Regular assessments, in reading and phonics, Accelerated reader quizzes, Star Reader tests, INSIGHT tracking and pupil progress meetings show that pupils at St Augustine's make good progress with their reading.
- Pupils get off to a strong start with learning to read in reception and make rapid progress in learning their phonics. As a result, the percentage of pupils passing the phonics screening check in Year 1 is consistently well above the national average. Children leave us at the end of Year 6 confident, fluent readers with a life-long love of reading.
- Pupil voice shows that attitudes to reading are positive and many of our pupils read for pleasure at home. This is supporting improved outcomes in reading across the school.
- We love to celebrate success of all learners and strive to help all children achieve their goals. Reading is celebrated in classrooms and around the school at St Augustine's, where our bright and colourful displays celebrate children's favourite books and reading rewards.

'Every child deserves the chance to become a reader. For many children, including those growing up in a household where reading is not valued, school will be the key place where they come into contact with books. Children who are not introduced to books are missing out on a lifetime of enjoyment.' (Building an Outstanding Reading School, Oxford School Improvement)

