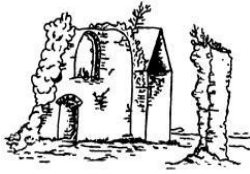


The Priory Catholic Voluntary Academy

Part of the Saint Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust



Phonics and Early Reading Statement of Intent

Intent – What we teach and why we teach it, ambitious for all.

The context of our school

At The Priory Catholic Voluntary Academy, it is essential that our approach to teaching phonics and reading is accessible to all learners, regardless of background and any SEND, and regardless of whether they are disadvantaged or not. Every child is unique and special in the eyes of God, and we must give every child the best start to their learning journey by empowering them with the gift of reading. We adopted *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised* in September 2022. It is an ambitious early reading programme exceeding the Early Learning Goal for reading in EYFS and teaching beyond the expectations of the Phonics Screening Check in Year 1. Through instilling the WE CARE characteristics in our pupils, pupils at The Priory Catholic Voluntary Academy are enthusiastic readers and resilient decoders.

Phonics (reading and spelling)

At The Priory Catholic Voluntary Academy, we believe that all our pupils can become fluent readers and writers. This is why we teach reading through *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised*, which is a systematic and synthetic phonics programme. We start teaching phonics in Reception and follow the [Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised progression](#), which ensures pupils build on their growing knowledge of the alphabetic code, mastering phonics to read and spell as they move through school. As a result, all our pupils are able to tackle any unfamiliar words as they read.

At The Priory Catholic Voluntary Academy, we also model the application of phonics in shared reading and writing, both inside and outside of the phonics lesson, in practise reading sessions, and across the curriculum.

Comprehension

At The Priory Catholic Voluntary Academy, we value reading as a crucial life skill. We recognise that decoding is only a small part of reading, which is why comprehension is one of the focuses of reading practise sessions from week 4 in reception. By the time pupils leave us, they read

confidently for meaning and regularly enjoy reading for pleasure. We encourage our pupils to see themselves as readers for both pleasure and purpose.

Culture of reading and personal development

At The Priory Catholic Voluntary Academy, we believe pupils' confidence and self-esteem can be linked to their successes in reading. This is why we have a culture of reading across our school with reading lessons throughout the week and daily story times. We enrich our reading curriculum with visits to the library and celebrations of reading events such as World Book Day.

Pupils with PMLD

At The Priory Catholic Voluntary Academy, we are passionate about getting all pupils reading as quickly as possible. However, for a very small number of pupils, it may not be appropriate to begin teaching them to read in Key Stage 1 due to complex learning difficulties. They would, instead, be taught all the foundations to phonics they need to learn through phonics when they are ready. This is supported by The Reading Framework 2023 "A very few pupils with profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD) might not be able to access direct literacy instruction. For pupils who are working at Standard 1 in the pre-key stage 1 standards, it may not be appropriate to begin teaching them to read." (Reading Framework 2023)