



Curriculum statement for the teaching and learning of Reading

INTENT

At St Gregory's School, our aim is to foster a whole school reading culture and to nurture in our community, a love of reading from a variety of genres and traditions. Our pupils will read confidently, fluently, accurately and with understanding. They will develop an interest in words and their meanings and encourage children to develop an interest in learning new vocabulary. We aim to expose our pupils to a wide range of reading material and a variety of reading experiences to enhance their cultural capital.

IMPLEMENTATION

At St Gregory's RC Primary School we aim to foster a lifelong love of reading in our pupils. We recognise that reading is the key to unlocking knowledge, and ensuring our children are proficient readers allows them to access the whole curriculum and gives them a key life skill. Adults in our school lead by example, modelling enthusiasm for and engagement with books.

Early Reading

Phonics is our priority in teaching children how to read and is taught daily in Reception and KS1. We follow the Structured Synthetic Phonics programme 'Floppy's Phonics' where the whole class are taught the same 'reading code' together and pupils receive additional intervention as required. The new code that children are taught will be kept in a phonics folder to be practised at home and at school. Children are routinely assessed on their ability to recognise graphemes and to blend and segment phonemes, as well as their ability to use phonemes to read captions and sentences.

For more information on our phonics scheme visit www.oxfordowl.co.uk

Reading Curriculum

At St Gregory's we follow the National Curriculum objectives for reading. In Early Years and KS1, our guided reading is closely matched to the phonic skills of our developing readers. Where children are still learning new phonemes and practising decoding, this is the main objective of reading sessions. Texts are carefully chosen to support this. Children are exposed to fiction, non-fiction and poetry texts in a wide range of genres to develop their understanding and enjoyment of reading.

Floppy's Phonics works alongside our reading scheme from Oxford Reading Tree which runs throughout the school. In KS2, whole class reading sessions are planned, often based around a class reading book. We focus upon VIPERS skills to deliver reading comprehension teaching and to assess reading skills. In KS2 pupils have access to Reading Plus – an online, bespoke reading intervention, which tailors itself to the needs of each individual. A number of pupils in KS1 and KS2 have access to Lexia Core 5 – an intervention aimed at developing phonic knowledge and strength in both reading and writing skills.

Our staff listen to children read on a weekly basis and this forms part of an ongoing reading assessment. All children have the opportunity to visit the school library to select reading material from a wide range of up to date, good quality fiction and non-fiction texts and poetry.

We give thanks to God, work together and always try our best

Reading at Home

We ask parents and carers to hear their children read as often as possible and at least three times a week. Each child has a reading diary which provides a link between home and school and is taken home every day. Regular practice allows children to develop their reading skills and to broaden their vocabulary. Each child will bring home two reading books – In KS1, one will be matched to the phonic code they have been learning and one will be a ‘free’ choice from the library. In Year 2 and KS2, one book will be selected from our reading scheme and a second will be a free choice from the library.

Reading for Pleasure/Cultural Capital

Reading for pleasure is at the heart of our reading policy. We believe all children have to right to read and draw knowledge from reading material, and that books provide a gateway to greater cultural awareness, knowledge and competence across the curriculum and in everyday life. Throughout the year, events are planned to promote reading for pleasure in the school community and to enhance the cultural capital of our pupils. These events include activities linked to World Book Day, visits to the local library, author visits, reading challenges and book fairs. Our library is regularly updated and promoted within the school community.

IMPACT

When our children leave Year 6 we expect them to be fluent and avid readers. Children will read widely with a thirst for reading a range of different genres and text types, including poetry. Children will be able to express their opinion on a range of different text types and use reading to confidently access all areas of the curriculum.