

# MIDDLETON PRIMARY SCHOOL

## PHONICS POLICY

This policy outlines the organisation, management and teaching of phonics at Middleton Primary School. The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all staff who are teaching and supporting phonics sessions.

At Middleton Primary School we want the children not simply to make sense of print, but to engage in reading voluntarily and frequently with increasing fluency, scope, comprehension and enjoyment.

### Aims

- To ensure that the children apply their phonic knowledge as an approach to reading and spelling, even though all words do not conform to regular phonics patterns.
- To ensure that the children are taught high frequency words and tricky words that do not conform to regular phonics patterns.
- To ensure that children have opportunities to read texts and words that are within their phonics capabilities as early as possible, even though all words may not be entirely de-codable by the children unaided.
- To encourage the children to attempt to spell words for themselves, within the range of their phonic knowledge.
- To help the children to apply the skill of blending phonemes in order to read words.
- To help the children to segment words into their constituent phonemes in order to spell words.
- To learn that blending and segmenting words are reversible processes.
- To teach the children that phonemes should be blended from left to right through the complete word in order for it to be read.

### What is Phonics?

Phonics is simply the code that turns written language into spoken language and vice versa. It is the vital initial step into teaching children to read, but it is far from the whole picture. Phonics will only work in an environment where speaking and listening skills are promoted and developed. Children should also be regularly exposed to a wide range of quality texts. They should regularly be read aloud to.

### Delivery of Phonics

At Middleton Primary School we use Fast track Phonics as part of our daily Success for All curriculum. Initial assessments determine a child's needs and then children are streamed across the school. Pupil's phonemic awareness is

built up by using colourful mnemonic pictures, integrated with alliterative phrases, sounds and letter cues. Fun elements, such as games, ensure it remains enjoyable, as the fast paced systematic reviewing of known sounds and introduction of new sounds and their written representatives are taught.

The teaching of phonics and word level skills takes place daily and is given high priority at Middleton Primary School, as it is the basis to all other areas of the curriculum.

Phonics sessions should follow a revisit and review, teach, practice, apply structure. The sessions should have visuals and be practical where possible and the letter name should be taught alongside the phonemes.

All children take part in a 20 minute phonics session every day until they are secure with all the Phocis sounds .Once all the phonemes listed below are secure and embedded, pupils move on to other aspects of the reading curriculum but constantly practise their phonic knowledge through daily spellings and reading.

**There are 24 consonant phonemes:**

|                    |             |            |
|--------------------|-------------|------------|
| /b/ as in ball     | /p/ parrot  | /ng/ sing  |
| /c /k/ caterpillar | /r/rabbit   | /sh/ shoe  |
| /d/ dinosaur       | /s/ snake   | /ch/ chew  |
| /f/ flower         | /t/ tower   | /qu/ queen |
| /g/ girl           | /v/ vulture | /th/ thumb |
| /h/ horse          | /w/wh/ worm |            |
| /j/ jump           | /y/ yo-yo   |            |
| /l/ leg            | /z/ zip     |            |
| /n/ net            | /x/ fox     |            |
| /m/ mountain       |             |            |

**There are 20 vowel phonemes:**

|               |                            |                            |                         |
|---------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| /a/ cat       | /ay/ play make<br>train    | /oo/ book                  | /oi/ boy boil           |
| /e/ hen bread | /ee/ see be tea            | /or/ fork saw ball<br>door | /air/ hair care<br>bear |
| /i/ pig       | /igh/ high kite tie<br>try | /ar/ shark grass           | /ire/ fire              |
| /o/ dog       | /ow/ blow goat<br>smoke    | /ir/ girl turn her         | /ear/ hear              |
| /u/ bug       | /oo/ food blue<br>true.    | /ou/ shout cow             | /ure/ pure              |

At Middleton Primary School we use British Sign Language signs to represent each sound or phoneme with an action, helping children to remember both more easily. The signs link to the picture for each phoneme. (Appendix 2)

### Assessment

- An 8 week cycle of assessment takes place throughout the year and the phonics lead carries out analysis of groups of learners and their progress
- Any gaps in learning are addressed through whole school streaming, within provision or through planned intervention.
- In Year 1 children will take part in the statutory phonics screening check. Any child who does not meet the threshold mark (currently 32/40) will retake in Year 2.

We involve parents where we can to support their own learning as well as giving them ways to support their child by holding Sharing Cafés throughout the year and inviting parents in to watch Phonics sessions and to share books with their children.

### Roles and Responsibilities

All teachers and teaching assistants are responsible for planning, teaching and assessing their phonics groups.

The Phonics Lead is responsible for:

- Monitoring and reviewing the provision of phonics.
- The organisation and implementing of the phonics screening check.
- Continued training for Teachers and TAs
- Training for new members of staff.

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Providing a high quality experience of phonics across the school.
- Ensuring that all staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities and receive appropriate training.

The Governing Body will:

- Support the Headteacher and staff through monitoring of phonics teaching across the school.
- Promote high standards of education of phonics for all children.

### Review

Person Responsible: H.McDermott ( Phonics Lead)

Policy Reviewed: February 2022

Date of Next Review: February 2025

