



Phonics Policy



Encourage, Guide, Support, Celebrate

Approved: Autumn 2024

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Introduction

At Aughton St. Michaels, we follow the Jolly Phonics scheme of work. Jolly Phonics is a fun and child centred approach to teaching literacy through synthetic systematic phonics. With actions and songs for each of the 42 letter sounds, the multi-sensory method is very motivating for children and teachers, who can see their students achieve.

Teaching and learning

Discrete phonics lessons take place daily across Reception and Key Stage 1. They follow the same structure from the Jolly Phonics planning, this ensures that children are consolidating phonic knowledge and skills over time and they are able to apply them in context. Phonics is taught through discrete phonic sessions, regular reading and writing sessions and through embedding the phonics by linking it with other curriculum subjects throughout the school day. Phonics is taught in daily twenty-minute sessions. A variety of short activities make up these sessions.

Assessment

Teachers use Assessment for Learning and an end of half term assessment check. Assessments also inform teachers or targeted intervention sessions that may be needed for those children who struggle with the learning of phonics. These would be pre-learning or targeted intervention sessions that are used to 'close the gap' as early as possible.

At the end of Year 1, children participate in the phonics screening check which assesses their knowledge of grapheme-phoneme correspondence and their skills in blending. This information is submitted to the local authority. Those children who reach the pass mark in the phonics screening check are highlighted for further intervention and targeted support, before completing the screening check again at the end of Year 2. Children in Year 2 who did not meet the required standard for phonics and need more work on 'decoding' and 'word reading' skills, will have further phonic intervention work.

Progression

Children will progress through the key skills of Jolly Phonics, beginning with learning the 42 initial letter sounds in EYFS. By the end of the Summer Term, Reception children should have increasing confidence using their phonics when reading and writing. By the end of Year 2 children should be proficient in their phonics knowledge and applying this in their independent reading and writing.

Jolly Phonics

Letter sound order

The sounds are taught in a specific order (not alphabetically). This enables children to begin building words as early as possible.



How does Jolly Phonics work?

Using a synthetic systematic phonics approach, Jolly Phonics teaches children the five key skills for reading and writing. The program continues through the teaching of essential grammar, spelling and punctuation skills.

The five skills taught in Jolly Phonics

Learning the letter sounds – children are taught the 42 main letter sounds. This includes:

- 1) Alphabet sounds as well as diagraphs such as sh, th, ai, ue
- 2) Learning letter formation – using different multi-sensory methods, children learn how to form and write the letters.
- 3) Blending – children are taught how to blend the sounds together to read and write new words.
- 4) Identifying the sounds in words (segmenting) – listening for the sounds in words gives children the best start for improving spelling.
- 5) Tricky words – tricky words have irregular spellings and children learn these separately.

