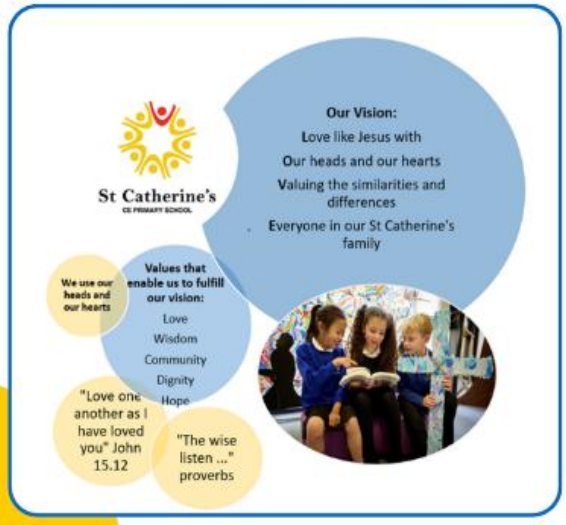
ST CATHERINE'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL
ENGLISH CURRICULUM OVERVIEW



At the heart of our school's vision lies the guiding principle of Love, which permeates every aspect of our educational journey. We are dedicated to creating a nurturing environment where every pupil has the opportunity to flourish in both reading and writing, honouring and cultivating each child's distinctive voice and boundless potential.

Our carefully crafted, consistent approach to literacy, anchored by the use of Jolly Phonics and Grammar across the curriculum, establishes a solid foundation, empowering our students to become confident, enthusiastic readers. Through the thoughtful exploration of diverse themes, cultures, and perspectives within class texts, group readings, and close reading sessions, our pupils develop a rich empathy and a profound appreciation for the world's vast tapestry.

Beyond reading, we celebrate personal expression through creative writing and poetry, encouraging children to delve into their inner thoughts and emotions with courage and creativity. Drama and role play further enrich this journey, offering vibrant avenues for self-expression and connection. These experiences invite children to inhabit others' perspectives, fostering compassion, confidence, and a deeper understanding of themselves and those around them.

OUR INTENTION IS TO ENSURE THAT THE CHILDREN AT OUR SCHOOL:

- ENJOY IT
- BELIEVE THEY CAN DO IT
- SEE THE PURPOSE IN IT
- DO IT CONFIDENTLY
- CAN DO IT NOW, TOMORROW AND FOREVER

EVERY SUBJECT, EVERY CROSS- CURRICULAR THEME, EVERY ASPECT OF OUR WORK IS AN 'IT'!
EVERY CHILD HAS AT LEAST ONE 'IT' – WE NEED TO FIND IT!

Reading Curriculum 2025- 2026

St. Catherine's C of E Primary School

Vision and Rationale

At St. Catherine's C of E Primary School, we believe that reading is the foundation of all learning. Our aim is to ensure that every child becomes a fluent, confident and enthusiastic reader who reads for both purpose and pleasure. We are committed to providing a structured, ambitious and inclusive reading curriculum that develops strong decoding skills, deep comprehension and a lifelong love of books.

Early Reading and Phonics

Systematic Synthetic Phonics

Early reading is taught through a structured programme of systematic synthetic phonics using Jolly Phonics. Phonics is delivered daily in whole-class sessions and follows a clearly sequenced progression of grapheme-phoneme correspondence.

Teaching includes:

- Explicit modelling of blending and segmenting
- Multi-sensory strategies (actions, songs and visuals)
- Regular review and consolidation
- Ongoing assessment to inform next steps

Phonics teaching continues into Key Stage 2 for pupils who require additional support to ensure secure decoding skills.

St Catherine's
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Reading Scheme and Book Progression

Core Decodable Texts

In EYFS and Key Stage 1, pupils read fully decodable books aligned with their phonics stage. We use **Jolly Phonics** reading books as our core early reading scheme. These texts are carefully matched to the sounds pupils have been taught to ensure successful, confident application of decoding skills.

Supplementation for Breadth and Depth

To ensure full coverage, depth and richness of reading experience, Jolly Phonics books are supplemented with texts from Oxford Reading Tree. This supplementation provides:

- Broader vocabulary exposure
- Greater variety of text types and genres
- Development of comprehension beyond decoding
- Increased opportunities to build fluency and expression

Books are carefully banded and matched to pupils' reading ability, helping to provide an appropriate level of challenge while supporting success.

Accelerated Reader

For Key Stage 2 home reading, pupils access **Accelerated Reader** to promote independent reading and comprehension monitoring. This system:

- Provides a wide range of levelled texts for choice and autonomy
- Includes quizzes to assess comprehension and inform teachers of reading progress
- Encourages pupils to set personal reading goals and track achievements

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Guided and Whole-Class Reading

EYFS and Key Stage 1

Children participate in frequent guided reading sessions led by an adult. These sessions focus on:

- Accurate decoding
- Fluency development
- Early comprehension skills
- Vocabulary discussion

Re-reading familiar texts is encouraged to build confidence, automaticity and fluency.

Whole-class reading sessions also take place, using close reading strategies to explore texts in detail. These sessions involve:

- Re-reading high-quality texts to deepen understanding
- Modelling inference, deduction, and prediction skills
- Discussing vocabulary in context and introducing new words explicitly
- Encouraging pupils to articulate responses orally before writing

The curriculum focus is to ensure pupils engage with rich and varied texts that enhance vocabulary, knowledge of the world, and comprehension skills.

In Key Stage 2, guided reading continues for pupils who require additional support, while whole-class reading is central to instruction. Reading lessons include:

- Close reading sessions, focusing on developing reading skills
- Explicit comprehension reading skills sessions teaching fluency, inference, deduction, evaluation, and vocabulary in context
- Exploration of authorial intent, structure, and language choices

- Discussion of rich vocabulary and its effect on meaning and tone

Differentiation occurs where necessary, targeting specific needs without setting by ability. Learning partners are used to promote discussion, reflection, and collaborative understanding of texts. Teachers use the ping-pong mastery approach, providing immediate feedback and scaffolding to maintain engagement and ensure steady progress.

Reading for Pleasure

We believe that reading for pleasure is essential in developing lifelong readers.

- Teachers read aloud daily to their classes.
- Each class studies high-quality class novels.
- Pupils have regular access to the school library.
- Story time sessions are held in the library to promote enjoyment of books in a welcoming environment.

These experiences expose pupils to a wide range of authors, genres and themes, broadening their literary knowledge and cultural capital.

Home Reading

Reading at home is a vital part of developing fluency and stamina.

- Pupils in EYFS and KS1 take home decodable books matched to their phonics stage.
- Books may include both Jolly Phonics texts and supplemented Oxford Reading Tree texts, depending on progression.
- As pupils become fluent readers, they access banded books appropriate to their reading level.

- Children also take home storybooks to be read to them or shared with parents, encouraging reading for pleasure and fostering a love of books.

Key Stage 2

- Pupils access **Accelerated Reader (AR) books** and school-selected texts at their reading level.

- Accelerated Reader allows pupils to choose books, complete quizzes to assess comprehension, and receive tailored guidance to support progress.

- Home reading promotes independence, choice, and reflective reading practices while reinforcing vocabulary and comprehension skills.

Parents are encouraged to read regularly with their child and to promote discussion around texts.

Assessment and Monitoring

Reading progress is monitored through:

- Ongoing formative assessment during lessons

- Phonics assessments

- Guided reading observations

- Termly assessment checkpoints

- Accelerated Reader half termly assessments

Assessment informs targeted support and intervention where required, ensuring all pupils make strong progress.

Inclusion and Support

We are committed to ensuring that every pupil can access the reading curriculum.

- Early identification of reading difficulties
- Targeted phonics intervention
- Additional adult support where appropriate
- Continued phonics teaching beyond KS1 when needed, including toe by toe
- Rapid Reading interventions in KS2
- Targeted Fluency interventions
- Daily 1 to 1 reading support

With an inclusive approach our aim is that no child is left behind in their journey to becoming a confident reader.

Conclusion

At St. Catherine's C of E Primary School, our reading policy reflects our commitment to excellence, equity and enjoyment. Through systematic phonics instruction using Jolly Phonics, texts for depth and breadth, and through rich reading experiences across the curriculum, we strive to develop skilled, thoughtful and enthusiastic readers prepared for the next stage of their education and beyond.