



# RWI Policy

January 2022

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## Subject Statement

Aspects of the 2014 National Curriculum for English that are applicable to the early stages of the teaching of reading, aim to ensure that all pupils:

- read easily, fluently and with good understanding
- develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information
- write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences

At Hexham First, we strive to teach children to read effectively and quickly using the Read Write Inc. Phonics programme (RWI) which includes teaching synthetic phonics, sight vocabulary, decoding and encoding words as well as spelling and accurate letter formation.

Using the RWI Scheme, to teach children to decode and then read, we aim to teach children from Early Years up to Year 2 to:

- apply their phonic knowledge and skills as the route to decode words
- respond speedily with the correct sound to graphemes (letters or groups of letters) for all common 40+ phonemes
- read accurately by blending sounds in unfamiliar words that contain the Grapheme Phoneme Correspondences (GPCs) that they have been taught
- read common exception words, noting unusual correspondences between spelling and sound
- read words containing taught GPCs and –s, –es, –ing, –ed, –er and –est endings
- read words of more than one syllable that contain taught GPCs
- read words with contractions and understand that the apostrophe represents the omitted letter(s)
- accurately read aloud books, that are consistent with their developing phonic knowledge and that do not require them to use other strategies to work out words
- reread books to build up their fluency, accuracy and expression and hence develop confidence and enjoyment of reading
  - read most high-frequency regular words quickly and accurately, without overt sounding and blending; only needing to sound out unfamiliar words
- spell words containing each of the 40+ phonemes by segmenting the sounds in words
- spell common exception words correctly
- add prefixes and suffixes to previously taught words
- spell effortlessly, and with confidence, so that all their focus when writing can be directed towards composition
- make phonetically plausible attempts to spell words correctly
- select the correct GPC for words that contain sounds that have more than one GPC – e.g. ay, ai, a-e etc.
- form each letter correctly, using RWI letter formation rhymes to encourage correct entry and exit points, orientation and letter size.

At Hexham First, these skills are embedded within daily RWI lessons. By focussing on the teaching of reading in the Early Years and KS1, using a synthetic phonics scheme, children learn to read unfamiliar printed words by blending (decoding) and speedily recognise familiar printed words by sight. We want all children to enjoy and experience early success in learning to read. We are committed to developing children's love of reading and to help them to acquire knowledge and to build on what they already know.

These principles and features characterise our approach to the teaching of reading using RWI:

- Teachers teach RWI using a detailed, proven step-by-step teaching scheme; where children are first taught simple GPCs, to accurately blend taught sounds, to decode simple words containing taught graphemes and then to read specifically designed books that are closely matched to their increasing knowledge of phonics and the common exception words.
- Pupils are taught within small homogenous groups, across year groups, which reflect their performance in RWI phonics assessments. We make sure that pupils read books that are closely matched to their increasing knowledge of phonics and ability to read 'tricky words'; so they experience early reading success and gain confidence that they are readers.
- RWI teachers have all the RWI resources needed to teach RWI and they follow detailed lesson plans. This ensures the consistency of the teaching of reading, in every RWI lesson, irrespective of the RWI reading teacher.
- Teachers attend regular in-house CPD sessions, where they have the opportunity to learn about pedagogical changes, new RWI resources and to observe and practice specific parts of the teaching process.
- Regular assessment ensures that pupils are taught in homogeneous groups which match their phonic knowledge and reading level. Pupils making speedy progress move groups quickly. Those pupils making steady progress continue at an appropriate pace matched to their reading level. Those pupils making slower progress are usually taught in smaller groups and generally receive additional small group or one-to-one intervention.

We assess all pupils from Reception to Year 2 using RWI Assessment materials. We use this data to assign them to their correct RWI Group and to identify if they need to have any additional support. This provides a good indication of their progress relative to their starting points. We track the phonic progress that pupils make from Reception to Year 2 and, at the end of Year 1; we evaluate pupils' acquisition of GPCs and decoding skills using the Phonics Screening Check (PSC). This ensures that we are able to maintain high standards in the teaching of the early stages of reading in EYFS (using the Reading statements in the EYFS Profile), in Year 1 (using the PSC materials) and in Year 2 (using the statutory KS1 Reading assessment materials). Pupils in KS2 that are still acquiring word reading skills, continue to be part of the RWI program.

## **Teaching and Learning**

Reception RWI lessons start immediately after Reception teachers have completed their Baseline Assessment. Children are organised into RWI Groups based on their phonic knowledge, ability to orally blend taught phonemes and read simple CVC words. This ensures the correct level of support, challenge and progression in the teaching of reading in Reception. Four RWI lessons are taught every week and each lesson lasts for approximately 30 minutes.

Daily KS1 RWI lessons commence at the start of the academic year; children are grouped by their phonic knowledge as well as their reading accuracy, fluency and comprehension.

Five RWI lessons are taught every week and each lesson lasts for approximately 40 minutes.

Both the Reception and KS1 RWI lessons start with a 10-minute phonics input session, where new sounds are taught, or previously taught sounds are reviewed. Pupils learn how to apply their grapheme/phoneme knowledge to read real simple words – initially sounding out these words and then progressing onto speedy reading of words – and also alien (pseudo) words. They also learn how to read irregular words and multisyllabic words. Following on from this, during the main part of the lesson, pupils are taught to read the regular and irregular words that are found in the RWI storybook that they are reading, and then they apply this knowledge to read RWI storybooks at their phonic level. The final part of the teaching sequence has an assessment focus, where pupils apply their phonic knowledge to read alien /pseudo words.

## **Assessment**

### **3.1 Assessment for Learning:**

The programme's 'cycle of instruction' means that, after direct instruction and guided practice, the pupils teach their partner. In this way, they all rehearse and consolidate what they have been learning. This helps the pupils to make their understanding clear to themselves and helps the teacher deal with any misconceptions. 'Partner teaching' is a key assessment tool.

Assessment is a critical element of our programme. The teacher assess:

- pupils' phonic knowledge
- the speed at which pupils are able to read the text
- their understanding of the stories they read

### **3.2 Formative Assessment:**

Daily formative assessment opportunities are built into every RWI lesson. Choral response group work, partner work, the small class size allows teachers to evaluate pupils' phonic knowledge and hence modify the pace and focus of their lessons. Formative assessment opportunities provide teachers with knowledge of which children are making slow, steady or speedy progress and hence they can liaise with the Reading Leader to provide additional support (for children making slower progress) or an immediate assessment (for pupils making speedy progress) to allow such pupils to change groups or have 1:1 tutoring.

### **3.3 Summative Assessment:**

All pupils are assessed every 6-8 weeks, using RWI Assessment materials. The assessment is conducted by the Reading Leader and the materials assess a pupils' sound to grapheme correspondence, ability to apply phonic knowledge to decode regular words and to read common exception words. Pupils reading fluency is also evaluated.

Pupils' progress is tracked, to record their phonic knowledge and decoding skills, and this

information is used to reorganise groups, RWI Storybook level and the focus of the phonics input of the lesson.

#### **4. Planning and Resources**

At Hexham First planning is based on the RWI Handbooks and plans. This ensures consistency across the program, as well as freeing up time for teachers to source additional resources etc. to make the lesson come alive to the class.

Planning details the focus of each part of the RWI lesson and explains the purpose of the activity to both the teacher and the pupil. Planning also explains the resources needed for each day in a 4-day teaching cycle.

Every RWI teacher has their own box of **RWI** Resources these include: simple and complex speed sounds charts, small and large phonics flash cards, magnetic boards and letters, green and red word flash cards, phonics wall friezes and Fred the Frog. Set 1, 2 and 3 teaching sequence resources. RWI storybooks (with Story Green words and Speedy Green words), ditties and linked texts and props are all stored centrally.

#### **5. Organisation**

Every part of the lesson is explicitly referred to so that the teachers, and the children, know the purpose of the task. Use of effective partner work, turn-taking and children taking on the 'teacher role', means that children have an active role in all parts of the lesson. We teach pupils to work effectively with a partner to explain and consolidate what they are learning. This provides the teacher with opportunities to assess learning and to pick up on difficulties, such as pupils' poor articulation, or problems with blending or alphabetic code knowledge. Teachers demonstrate their enthusiasm and passion in the program and this has a very positive impact on the teaching and learning environment.

#### **6. EYFS**

##### **Nursery**

Children in Nursery begin to develop their phonological awareness and oral blending and segmenting skills through a playful and multisensory approach using songs, actions and games. When appropriate, the children will start to become familiar with some grapheme-phoneme correspondences through contextually appropriate text such as names and signs initially. Children develop a love of language and enjoy listening to stories. sounds on a daily basis.

##### **Reception**

During the first few weeks of Reception, a Baseline RWI assessment is completed to enable the Reading Leader to determine the phonic knowledge of each child. Because of this assessment, classes are split into small homogenous groups. Children that know no or very few sounds, learn the Set 1 sounds from the beginning, in very small groups, with a focus on repetition and Fred talk. Children that know some sounds, are taught unknown sounds then also progress onto assisted blending. Children that know many sounds, but can't orally

blend, focus on learning the technique of assisted blending and then to quickly progress to independent blending. Those children that can orally blend and read CVC words, focus on using known sounds to independently blend words containing 3 or more sounds and reading RWI Storybooks. Reception pupils learn sounds and the corresponding grapheme, or groups of letters which represent each phoneme. Simple mnemonics help children to quickly grasp this phoneme-grapheme relationship. This is especially useful for pupils at risk of making slower progress. This learning is consolidated daily.

## 7. KS1 and KS2

In Key Stage 1 pupils work within homogenous groups, which reflect their performance in RWI phonic assessments. We make sure that pupils read books that are closely matched to their increasing knowledge of phonics and 'tricky words', ensuring they experience success, gain confidence and see themselves as readers.

Pupils are re-assessed every six to eight weeks and the RWI groups are reorganised accordingly. Key stage 1 RWI lessons occur from 9:10 until 9.40

## 8. Inclusion

Pupils making accelerated progress will move groups to ensure that an appropriate level of challenge is provided. Pupils that need additional support to consolidate their phonic knowledge and its application will generally be taught in smaller groups where they have the opportunity to consolidate their knowledge prior to moving onto the next stage. If appropriate, some pupils will need 1:1 tutoring to support their phonic development.

## 9. Role of the Subject Leader

The RWI Reading Leader:

- Oversees the assessment of all Reception & Key Stage 1 pupils, reviews assessment data to organise pupils to the correct RWI groups
- Provides **RWI** teachers with a list of graphemes that their group requires consolidation of
- Assigns **RWI** teachers to **RWI** groups
- 'Drops in' on **RWI** groups to give advice and to informally check that pupils are in the correct groups through learning walks and scrutiny of work
- Organises **RWI Development Days**, led by our RWI consultant trainer, where the teaching of **RWI** at Hexham First is reviewed and assessed. The **RWI** trainer also coaches staff, supports **RWI** intervention teachers, updates the **RWI** Lead on new practices and helps the **RWI** Lead to create a plan of action to help develop the teaching of reading.
- Ensures that all staff are trained in **RWI** Phonics and book regular Development Days with **RWI** consultant trainers.
- Liaises with the Head Teacher regarding groupings, teaching spaces, staffing, training, progress, additional support and other relevant matters
- Liaises with class teachers to discuss the progress of children in **RWI**
- Provides class teachers with a report on children's **RWI** grouping, any sounds needed to be consolidated and also any additional comments
- Update the website regularly

## 10. Parents

In Reception, whilst children are learning the Set 1 speed sounds at school, children will have the opportunity of practising the speed sounds that they have learned at school with their parents/carers. When children can blend independently, **RWI** ditties and Storybooks will be sent home so that children can read these books to their parents. We have a 4-day plan to read storybooks so children will read their book several times before the book is changed. This is because each read through of the book focuses on specific skills; decoding, reading with expression, accuracy and fluency as well as reading for comprehension.

We encourage parents to help their child learn to read. Use the following link to gain further information: <https://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/>

Parents are informed of their child's progress during our virtual Parents' Evenings in the autumn and spring terms and in the annual end-of-year report.

**Policy Agreed: January 2022**

**RWI Lead: Helen Beveridge**