

OUR LADY OF PITY R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL  
A Voluntary Academy



# **Our Lady of Pity Roman Catholic Primary School** **A Voluntary Academy**

## **Phonics and Reading Policy**

## Phonics and Reading

In Reception/F2 phonics is taught throughout the day in manageable chunks: we know that children learn best if they are given opportunities to practise their learning in a range of different situations - this is our aim. Following the laying of firm language foundations in Reception, KS1 phonic lessons are taught three times a week in thirty minute sessions. The children are grouped by ability across the key stage and all of them follow a bespoke language programme which addresses key areas of development. The delivery of these sessions continues into Y3. Whilst the frequency of the sessions lessens, the overarching principles remain the same. We rely on parents to help us: the children take home practice tasks which, if repeated regularly, greatly assist the children in their acquisition of language. To help parents get to grips with our approach, we hold parents' meetings in the autumn term.

### WHAT IS PHONICS?

**Phonics** is the system of 'blending' sounds together to read and 'segmenting' sounds to spell. They are both complimentary and interlinking skills that are taught together. This constitutes one part of the language programme, albeit a significant one. We also focus on a range of other skills, including: listening, comprehension, handwriting, fine-motor skills development, short term memory development.

**Systematic synthetic phonics** is taught using Jolly Phonics and a bespoke phonics scheme. This extends into Key Stage 2 and includes basic grammar as well as spelling. Children learn pre-cursive writing in Reception/F2 and this leads to fully joined handwriting when all the letter shapes are known.

**Reading** is pivotal for successful and efficient learning. Our Lady of Pity is unashamedly a 'reading school' where great pride is taken in reading and the resultant learning it enables. Naturally, our pupils read every day in school and we encourage them to do the same at home. We engender a love of reading and encourage the children to read as widely as possible. Reading books are sent home from the earliest days in school and we encourage all to read aloud and talk about books at every opportunity. We use a variety of reading schemes and have a number of reading intervention schemes to accommodate children's different learning styles.

**Reading scheme** - early reading is taught using phonic based reading books from a variety of commercial schemes. As children progress, incremental reading schemes and carefully chosen children's books ensure that readers access a wide range of poetry, fiction and non-fiction texts. Choral poetry helps children to discover the rhythm and rhyme of language in an enjoyable way.

The children are taught to read using various schemes. The main reading scheme for early reading is New Way and Jolly Phonics as the children progress they are introduced to a wider variety of books such as - Collins: Big Cat Phonics, mixed with Oxford Reading Tree and Songbirds to consolidate learning. As reading fluency develops, the children read books from the Oxford Treetops series alongside ordinary books. All schemes contain a mixture of fiction, non-fiction, poetry and plays. Children in Key Stage 2 who have missed out on early reading for any reason, are taught using Collins Progress books.