

Northgate Primary School

Phonics Policy



<u>Approved by</u>	
<u>Last reviewed on:</u>	<u>May 2026</u>
<u>Next Review due by:</u>	<u>September 2027</u>
<u>Owner</u>	<u>Phonics Reading Lead</u>

Phonics At Northgate Primary School

At Northgate Primary, phonics is taught according to the Read Write Inc (RWI) programme. RWI Phonics is an inclusive, systematic synthetic phonics programme for all children learning to read. It teaches the 44 common sounds in English and how to blend them to read and spell. The programme includes both reading and writing components. Reading is the key to accessing the whole curriculum; the ability to decode efficiently is essential. RWI sessions occur daily to ensure continuity, pace, and rapid progress in reading development. This policy ensures compliance with statutory requirements in the EYFS Framework and the National Curriculum for English, ensuring all pupils are taught systematic synthetic phonics from Reception onwards.

Aims and Objectives

To teach children to:

- Apply the skill of blending phonemes to read words.
- Segment words into their constituent phonemes to spell words.
- Learn that blending and segmenting words are reversible processes.
- Read high frequency words that do not conform to regular phonic patterns.
- Read texts and words that are within their phonic capabilities as early as possible.
- Decode texts effortlessly so all their resources can be used to comprehend what they read.
- Spell effortlessly so that all their resources can be directed towards composing their writing.

Teaching and Learning Style

There are five core principles of RWI:

1. Praise – Children learn best in a positive climate.
2. Pace- Lessons move quickly to maintain engagement.
3. Purpose – Every part of the lesson has a specific purpose.
4. Passion – This is a very prescriptive programme. It is the energy, enthusiasm and passion that teachers put into the lesson that bring the teaching and learning to life!
5. Participation - A strong feature of R.W.I lessons is partner work and we ensure that every child participates throughout the lesson.

Roles and Responsibilities

Headteacher /Deputy Head

- Oversees the overall implementation of RWI.

Reading Leader / Phonics Lead

- Oversees assessment of Reception, KS1, and Year 3–4 pupils needing phonics support.
- Oversees assessment of Fresh Start in UKS2 who need phonics support.
- Assigns pupils to appropriate homogeneous groups.
- Tracks progress, analyses data, and reports to governors.
- Conducts coaching sessions, learning walks and models lessons where needed.
- Organises 1:1 tutoring for children not making expected progress.

Assessment Team

- Supports the Reading leader to assess all children who are taught phonics at Northgate.

Reading Group Leaders (Teachers & PSAs)

- Deliver daily RWI/ Fresh Start lessons to assigned groups.
- Monitor partner work and assess pupils' daily progress.
- Highlight children needing extra reinforcement.

RWI Tutors

- Deliver RWI tutoring sessions.
- Assess pupils' daily progress.
- Liaise with the Reading Leader and Deputy head to monitor progress of the children who they are tutoring.

Delivery of Phonics using RWI Methodology

- RWI lessons follow structured teacher handbooks; minimal teacher-generated planning is required.
- Lesson planning includes ditties, storybooks, speed sounds, and green/red word activities, following the RWI portal and Oxford Owl resources.
- Enhanced planning may occur for children needing additional support specifically for those under the SSC (please see The Alternative Reading and Writing Curriculum).

Progression in Phonics Organisation of Teaching and Learning

Nursery (EYFS Phase 1)

Letters and sounds introduced through discrete phonics lessons and a language-rich environment. - Focus on oral blending/segmenting using 'Fred Talk'.

Reception

Full implementation of RWI following the RWI Strong Starts Framework moving to homogeneous groups following initial assessment in Autumn 2. Assessed weekly to ensure children keep up not catch up; EYFS lead monitors and reports progress. They are assessed formally each half term.

Key Stage 1

Pupils are grouped by ability based on assessment. Lessons last 45 minutes daily. Groups are reorganised every half term

Years 3–4

Pupils who have not passed the phonics screening check continue to receive RWI lessons in Year 3 and 4. Pupils grouped by ability based on assessment. Lessons last 45 minutes three times a week. Groups are reorganised every half term.

Year 5-6

Fresh start is taught for children who still need access to phonics teaching. Pupils grouped by ability based on assessment. Groups are reorganised every half term.

Assessment and Recording

- Daily assessment via partner work, grapheme charts, green/red word reading, and decoding texts.
- Formal assessment every 6–8 weeks using RWI assessment tool on Ruth Miskin school portal.
- Data informs regrouping and 1:1 tutoring.

Inclusion and SEND Pupils

RWI is an inclusive programme for all children. However, it is sometimes necessary to use additional strategies that may be recommended by external agencies for those with a specific learning difficulty. Pupils with SEND, EAL, speech and language difficulties receive additional support:

- Multi-sensory activities
- Visual aids
- Adapted materials and pacing
- Please refer to our Alternative Reading and Writing Curriculum for the teaching of phonics for our Deaf pupils.
- All interventions follow RWI fidelity guidance.

RWI Expectations of Progress

	YR children can:	Y1 children can:	Y2 children can:
End of Autumn 1	Read 16 single letter Set 1 sounds	Read 47 sounds (all Set 1 and Set 2 sounds) Read Purple Storybooks	Read Blue Storybooks with increasing fluency and comprehension
End of Autumn 2	Read all 25 Set 1 single letter sounds Blend sounds into words orally	Read 52 sounds (first 5 Set 3 sounds) Read Pink Storybooks	Read Grey Storybooks
End of Spring 1	Read all 25 Set 1 single letter sounds Blend sounds to read words Read short Ditty stories	Read 58 sounds (11 Set 3 sounds) Read Orange	Read Grey Storybooks with increasing fluency and comprehension
End of Spring 2	Read 31 sounds (Set 1 Special Friends) Read Red Storybooks	Read 64 sounds (17 Set 3 sounds) Read Yellow Storybooks	Access Book club
End of Summer 1	Read 35 sounds (4 double consonants) Read Green Storybooks	Read 69 sounds (22 Set 3 sounds) Read Yellow Storybooks	Access Book club
End of Summer 2	Read 41 sounds (first 6 Set 2 sounds) Read Green Storybooks	Read 75 sounds (all Set 3 sounds and additional graphemes) Read Blue Storybooks	Access Book club

Parental Engagement

- Parents are supported via Class Dojo and Tapestry to access the virtual classroom videos.
- Parent workshops
- Information is available at: <https://www.ruthmiskin.com/parents/>

References / Guidance

- National Curriculum for English
- EYFS Framework
- RWI Phonics Handbooks on Oxford Owl and Ruth Miskin School Portal
- Fresh Start Handbooks
- Tutoring handbooks