

St Bede's Catholic Academy.

A Parent's guide to
early reading and
phonics.





Read Write Inc, is a whole-school literacy programme for 4-11-year-olds designed to create fluent readers, confident speakers and willing writers.

Read Write Inc. Phonics is a complete literacy programme, for 3 to 7 year-olds learning to read and write and for 7 and 8 year-olds needing to catch up quickly. Although reading is taught using synthetic phonics, the programme is so much more than that. It covers all of the new National Curriculum requirements for language and literacy

Read Write Inc. is a method of learning centred around letter sounds and phonics, and we use it here at St Bede's Catholic Academy to aid children in their literacy.

Reading opens the door to learning. A child who reads a lot will become a good reader. A good reader will be able to read more challenging material. A child who reads challenging material is a child who will learn. The more a child learns, the more he or she will want to find out.

Using Read Write, the children learn to read effortlessly so that they can put all their energy into comprehending what they read. It also allows them to spell effortlessly so that they can put all their energy into composing what they write.

When using Read Write to read the children will:

- learn 44 sounds and the corresponding letter/letter groups using simple picture prompts.
- learn to read words using Fred Talk.
- read lively stories featuring words they have learned to sound out.
- show that they comprehend the stories by answering questions.

When using Read Write to **write** the children will:

- learn to write the letters/letter groups which represent 44 sounds.
- learn to write words by saying the sounds in Fred Talk.
- write simple sentences.
- compose stories based on picture strips.
- compose a range of stories based on writing frames.

Read Write Inc. Speed Sounds

At the heart of Read Write Inc. Phonics is the systematic teaching of all the common sounds in the English language (RWI calls these the Speed Sounds). Children are taught to recognise the sounds and to put them together ('sound blend' them) into words for reading.

Children are taught one way of representing the 44 main sounds of English first, and then go on to learn the alternative spellings later on.

When teaching the letter sounds, it is important to remember to keep them very 'pure' and distinct, to help with sound-blending later on. To enable your child to gain confidence in reading, they should only be asked to read words containing letter sounds they know securely.

Read Write Inc. introduces the simple Speed Sounds (one sound, one grapheme) with Speed Sounds Set 1 and Set 2. They then learn more ways of writing the same sounds with the complex Speed Sounds Set 3. Children are taught letter **names** before moving on to Speed Sounds Set 3.

Once children know the first set of Speed Sounds, they are ready to read the first Storybooks.

Speed Sounds Set 1

m - a - s - d - t - i - n - p - g - o - c - k - u - b - f - e - l - h - sh - r - j - v - y - w - th - z -
ch - qu - x - ng - nk

School Books – Red Ditty Books, Green Set 1, Purple Set 2
Home Books – Red Level 1, Green Level 2, Purple Level 3

Speed Sounds Set 2

ay - ee - igh - ow - oo - oo - ar - or - air - ir - ou - oy

School Books – Pink Set 3, Orange Set 4
Home books – Pink Level 4

Speed Sounds Set 3

a-e – ea – i-e – o-e – u-e – aw – are – ur – er – ow – ai – oa – ew – ire – ear – ure –
tious – tion

This record sheet can enable you to keep track of your child's progress as they are introduced to the sounds in the Read Write Inc. Phonics programme.

Mark with a tick when your child is shown the letter (or group of letters e.g. 'sh' or 'igh') and mark with another tick when they can accurately give the correct letter sound when shown the letter(s).

Speed Sounds Set 1

m	a	s	d
t	i	n	p
g	o	c	k
u	b	f	e
l	h	sh	r
j	v	y	w
th	z	ch	qu
x	ng	nk	

Speed Sounds Set 2

ay	say	ee	meet
igh	night	ow	snow
oo	moon	oo	look
ar	park	or	worn
air	pair	ir	first
ou	count	oy	toys

Speed Sounds Set 3 (common alternative spellings for sounds)

Speed Sound 1 / 2 (Already introduced)	Speed Sound 3 (Alternative spelling)	Example word
ee	ea	seat
oy	oi	join
ay	a-e	name
igh	i-e	time
ow	o-e	home
oo	u-e	tune

or	aw	saw
air	are	share
ir	er	after
ir	ur	turn
ou	ow	town
ay / a-e	ai	snail
ow / o-e	oa	boat
oo / u-e	ew	chew
	ire	hire
	ear	hear
	ure	sure
	tion	tradition
	cious	delicious
	tious	scrumptious

Often words or terminology that teachers use when talking about your child's progress in reading can be unfamiliar. Below is a list of words and their meaning to help you understand and support your child's reading journey.

Glossary

Phoneme - The smallest unit of sound. There are approximately 44 phonemes in English. Phonemes can be put together to make words.

Grapheme - A way of writing down a phoneme. Graphemes can be made up from 1 letter e.g. p, 2 letters e.g. sh, 3 letters e.g. tch or 4 letters e.g. ough.

Digraph - A grapheme containing two letters that makes just one sound (phoneme).

Trigraph - A grapheme containing three letters that makes just one sound (phoneme).

Oral Blending - This involves hearing phonemes and being able to merge them together to make a word. Children need to develop this skill before they will be able to blend written words.

Blending- This involves looking at a written word, looking at each grapheme and using knowledge of GPCs to work out which phoneme each grapheme represents and then merging these phonemes together to make a word. This is the basis of reading.

Oral Segmenting - This is the act hearing a whole word and then splitting it up into the phonemes that make it. Children need to develop this skill before they will be able to segment words to spell them.

Segmenting - This involves hearing a word, splitting it up into the phonemes that make it, using knowledge of GPCs to work out which graphemes represent those phonemes and then writing those graphemes down in the right order. This is the basis of spelling.

