

Reading

Intent

At Our Lady of Grace RC Primary School, our aim is to nurture confident, fluent, and enthusiastic readers who not only master the technical skills of reading but also develop a genuine love for books. We want every child to be able to comprehend, analyse, and respond thoughtfully to a wide range of texts, using reading as a gateway to knowledge, empathy, and lifelong learning.

To achieve this, we focus on:

- Building a strong foundation in phonics and decoding from the earliest stages.
- Developing fluency, expression, and comprehension across all key stages.
- Inspiring enjoyment and curiosity through exposure to diverse texts, genres, and cultures.
- Equipping pupils with strategies to read for meaning and critically engage with texts.
- Ensuring equal access to high-quality reading opportunities for all children, including those with SEND, through targeted support and interventions.

Implementation

Our reading curriculum is carefully designed and sequenced to ensure progression and accessibility for all learners.

Key features include:

1. **High-Quality Texts** – A rich variety of carefully chosen texts (fiction, poetry, non-fiction, and digital media) that reflect diverse cultures and broaden pupils' worldviews.
2. **Systematic Phonics** – Daily teaching ensures secure phonics knowledge, accurate decoding, and fluent reading.
3. **Vocabulary Development** – Explicit, embedded vocabulary teaching across the curriculum, using context-based approaches and word-learning strategies.
4. **Comprehension Skills** – Direct teaching of strategies such as prediction, inference, retrieval, summarising, and questioning, supported by VIPERS resources in KS2.
5. **Independent Reading** – Regular opportunities for children to read for pleasure, supported by inviting classroom and school libraries.
6. **Targeted Support** – Tailored interventions, “keep-up” sessions, and enrichment for advanced readers to ensure progress for all pupils.
7. **Assessment & Feedback** – Ongoing formative and summative assessments (phonics tracking, PIRA, SATs practice) to monitor progress and inform teaching.

EYFS & KS1: Daily phonics, matched decodable books, and regular adult-led reading sessions focusing on decoding, prosody, and comprehension. Reading for pleasure is embedded through library access and story time.

KS2: Targeted phonics catch-up where needed, alongside shared and guided reading sessions. VIPERS resources and SATs-style questions (in Y6) develop higher-order comprehension. Pupils are encouraged to read independently, building stamina and confidence.

Adaptations and SEND provision ensure every child can access the curriculum.

Impact

Our consistent, high-quality approach to reading ensures pupils:

- Perform at least in line with national expectations in phonics, KS1, and KS2 assessments.
- Develop into fluent, expressive, and independent readers.
- Demonstrate a love of reading and the ability to discuss authors, themes, and texts with confidence.
- Possess a wide and growing vocabulary, supporting both reading comprehension and writing.
- Are equipped to access the wider curriculum and apply their reading skills across all subjects.

Ultimately, pupils at Our Lady of Grace RC Primary School leave us not only as capable readers but as curious, reflective learners who see reading as a source of enjoyment, knowledge, and lifelong opportunity.