

Phonics Curriculum Statement

Intent

At Grange Primary Academy we teach phonics using a linguistic phonics programme called Sounds-Write. Sounds Write is a very highly structured, multi-sensory, incremental and code-oriented, instructional approach to teaching children to read and spell.

The Sounds-Write programme is implemented in the classroom and provides very fast and effective teaching for children at all levels. We are proud to be one of the few Sounds-Write Training Schools providing outstanding phonics teaching for training purposes as well as taster mornings, introducing the Sounds Write programme.

This programme is successful in teaching children to read and spell because it starts with what all children know from a very young age – the sounds of our spoken language. Then, using a very systematic approach, it teaches them how these sounds are coded within our writing system.

Implementation

Children at Grange Primary Academy will be sure to tell you how much they enjoy their Sounds Write lessons. Its structure and simplicity make it a programme accessible to all learners and helps them to make excellent progress with their reading and spelling.

Sounds Write promotes the use of multi-sensory engagement with the materials appropriate to the level and abilities of the children being taught. Visual, auditory, and kinaesthetic activities are at all times combined simultaneously to promote learning.

In addition to being multisensory, the Sounds Write programme has pace and utilises an array of stimulating lessons and resources. It also enables teachers to differentiate the challenges placed before the learner in order to meet their individual needs.

The four key concepts children are taught are:

1. letters are symbols that represent sounds
2. sounds can be spelled using 1, 2, 3 or 4 letters
3. the same sound can be spelled in different ways
4. the same spelling can represent different sounds

The three key skills children need to master are:

1. blending
2. segmenting
3. phoneme manipulation

Children in our Foundation Stage begin with the Initial Code where they practice all 3 key skills whilst learning the 1:1 sound-spelling correspondences and securing their understanding of key concept 1.

This builds up confidence and phonic knowledge in a truly reversible system, enabling them to decode and encode a wide range of words and sentences.

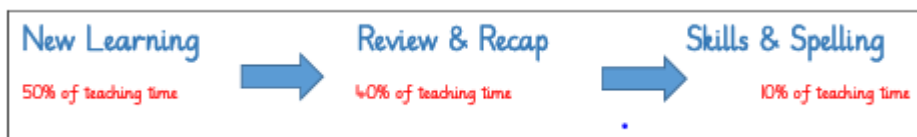
At first, children learn to read and write simple one syllable words with a CVC structure.

Complexity of word structure systematically builds up so that children apply their code knowledge to monosyllabic words with up to 6 sounds.

Once the Initial Code has been mastered, children continue to practice all 3 key skills whilst learning Extended Code which explores key concepts 2, 3 and 4. Learning of the Extended Code is a lifelong process – we all continue to develop our understanding of this code whenever we encounter new words. Which is why Sounds Write can be applied right up to the end of KS2.

Whilst learning the Extended Code, children read and write monosyllabic and polysyllabic words at an age-appropriate level.

Lesson Structure



A typical Sounds Write lesson is broken up into 3 parts.

These three specific parts can be taught in any order within a unit of study.

In Early Years children have a 30-minute phonics session every day.

In KS1, children have a 30-minute phonics lesson every day.

In KS2, children have a 30-minute spelling lesson 3 times per week, in addition to their reading, writing and grammar lesson.

Word lists and decodable phonics books are sent home each week for children to practise reading and writing at home.

All of our teachers receive a 4-day training session in order to deliver the Sounds Write phonics programme.

Sounds Write takes children through systematic, incremental steps to teach children the 44 sounds in the English language and their multiple spellings.

Impact

The impact of the Sounds-Write teaching approach enables our children to be confident readers and writers by the end of their time with us.

The lessons are carefully structured and consistently applied across the school with excellent training and materials to support the teachers. The children love their Sound-Write lessons which is why we continuously see great progress.