**St Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School**

**Intent**

The teaching of phonics is an integral part of our curriculum and is a high priority for all teachers and teaching assistants in our school. We recognise the importance of a systematic and synthetic approach and we work to build on the foundations of strong phonics teaching to foster a love of reading in all our pupils.

**Implementation**

* We follow a systematic approach to teaching of phonic skills. We use ‘Twinkl Phonics’ as the basis for our teaching of phonics.
* This programme of work teaches pupils to develop a knowledge of letter sounds, how to blend sounds and build and decode words. Pupils will also begin to recognise key sight vocabulary often known as ‘tricky’ words. This includes words that cannot be sounded out.
* We plan and deliver daily 30-minute sessions for all pupils in EYFS and Key Stage 1.
* Pupils are grouped across the Key Stage based on their phonic ability. All pupils are assessed on a regular basis to check their progress and their teaching is adjusted accordingly if required.
* We use a range of multi-sensory strategies to enthuse and engage pupils, including the use of websites, magnetic letters, speaking and listening, songs and rhymes and practical activities.
* Pupils work with pace and are expected to apply their knowledge across the curriculum with any reading or writing activities.
* All pupils in Year 1 take part in the Phonics Screening Check in June. Any pupil that does not pass is re-tested in Year 2 and receives appropriate intervention.
* According to need, some children may work in a different Key Stage for phonics. This will be discussed between parents and staff.
* Phonics/Spelling is planned and delivered daily in 20 minute sessions. The whole of KS2 teach phonics/spelling at the same time each day (10.10am-10.30am) to enable movement between working groups.

**Impact**

Following book scrutinies, learning walks and pupil voice interviews, children at St Mary’s demonstrate an enjoyment of phonics and spelling sessions, and a great understanding of the learning that is taking place daily. Most children at St Mary’s have a secure understanding of letters and sounds, in accordance to the end points that our school expects. Where children have gaps in learning, teaching is adapted to support the development of knowledge and skills and groups are interchangeable to maintain this. Our children are then ready for their next stage in learning, whether that is the next lesson, year group or key stage. Year after year our phonics screening check is above the national average.