

Reading Curriculum Statement

At Willows Academy we believe that the ability to read is a skill, which is fundamental to many aspects of life. Throughout school being able to read is central to accessing a wide range of areas of the curriculum. Children are offered the opportunity to learn in a print rich environment.

Aims and Objectives

- Children to become confident, fluent, accurate, independent readers who read with understanding.
- To develop enthusiastic and reflective readers.
- To read a variety of texts through use of libraries, ICT and other media.
- To read and respond to a variety of different genre of literature.
- Children to have access to a range of non-fiction texts, which stimulate both individual interests and enhance all curriculum areas.
- To promote a lifelong love of reading.

Principles for teaching and learning of reading

In order to deliver the above, we will meet the objectives outlined in the National Curriculum. This will ensure that all children are given opportunities to study a range of good quality and interesting fiction and non-fiction texts from a variety of genre. They will have the opportunity to read 'real' books and newspapers, big books, posters, ICT based texts, computers and interactive whiteboards and books from a variety of reading schemes.

Reading schemes in Key Stage 1

Children have the opportunity to read from a variety of reading schemes for home reading books and for guided reading. These include Comics for Phonics, Big Cat, Dandelion Readers and Oxford Reading Tree Traditional Tales and Phonic Books. Children also have the opportunity to read a variety of 'real books' which have been appropriately levelled.

Strategies for the teaching of reading

Reading is initially taught alongside Letters and Sounds. This initiative promotes a strong and systematic emphasis on the teaching of phonics to aid the teaching and learning of reading. All children in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage One have a whole class daily phonic session. Children are tracked through the phonic phases to ensure that progress is being made in line with national expectations.

Children who still need support in Key Stage 2 with their phonics will be taught and provided with additional support from a teacher who specialises in teaching reading.

Throughout the school reading is taught through Shared Reading sessions, Guided Reading sessions and opportunities to practise and consolidate skills through independent reading. Reading tasks/books will be appropriately matched to individual abilities and needs in the classroom. During these sessions teachers/teaching assistants and volunteers will use a range of strategies to try and enhance the teaching of reading.

Extra support is given to children who find reading difficult initially in the form of daily reading sessions with a teaching assistant. Children may then be given further support to develop their reading through small group work or individual sessions based on a reading recovery type programme.

We recognise the importance that parents play in the teaching of reading and developing early reading habits. We encourage parents to hear their children read on a daily basis, share a book with their child and talk to them about what they like to read.