

# Clifton Primary School



## English Reading Curriculum Statement

*‘Bringing out the Best in Each and Every Child’*

### Reading at Clifton Primary School:

*"Reading is the gateway to lifelong learning. At Clifton Primary School, we believe that every child deserves to become a fluent, confident and enthusiastic reader who develops a genuine love of books and literature."*

Reading is at the heart of everything we do. It enables children to access all areas of the curriculum, develop their understanding of the world and become lifelong learners. Our carefully designed Reading Curriculum provides every child with the opportunity to experience ambitious, high-quality literature that inspires curiosity, develops empathy and broadens knowledge.

From Nursery through to Year 6, children experience a carefully sequenced journey through fiction, poetry and non-fiction. Each text has been thoughtfully selected to enrich children's vocabulary, develop reading fluency and comprehension, and build knowledge across the wider curriculum.

### Intent:

At Clifton Primary School, we believe that reading is fundamental to children's academic success and personal development. Our intention is to develop fluent, confident readers who not only read accurately and with understanding but who also develop a lifelong love of literature.

Our Reading Curriculum has been carefully designed to ensure that every child encounters a rich and diverse range of high-quality texts. Through carefully selected fiction, poetry, traditional tales and non-fiction, children develop their reading skills whilst expanding their vocabulary, broadening their knowledge and deepening their understanding of the world around them.

We recognise that reading is most powerful when children are able to make meaningful connections across their learning. Therefore, the books children study are carefully sequenced to complement learning in subjects such as history, geography, science, art and religious education. These purposeful links allow children to revisit important concepts, strengthen prior learning and build increasingly secure knowledge over time.

Through our Reading Curriculum, we aim for every child to leave Clifton Primary School as a knowledgeable, articulate and reflective reader who reads widely for both pleasure and purpose.

## **Implementation:**

Reading begins from the moment children join Clifton Primary School. High-quality interactions, daily story times, songs, rhymes and language-rich environments encourage curiosity and foster an early love of books and storytelling.

### **Early Reading and Phonics**

Children in Nursery, Reception and Key Stage One learn to read through **Bug Club Phonics**, our chosen systematic synthetic phonics programme.

Daily phonics lessons enable children to:

- develop secure phonological awareness;
- learn the relationship between sounds and letters;
- blend sounds to read unfamiliar words;
- segment words for spelling;
- develop increasing fluency and confidence when reading.

Children practise these skills using carefully matched decodable books, ensuring they apply the phonics they have been taught successfully before moving on to more complex texts.

As children's decoding becomes automatic, they transition from *learning to read* towards *reading to learn*.

### **Developing Fluent Readers**

Throughout Key Stage One and Key Stage Two, children follow a carefully sequenced Reading Curriculum built around a collection of ambitious, high-quality texts.

These carefully selected texts enable children to develop:

- reading fluency;
- ambitious vocabulary;
- secure comprehension;
- inference and deduction;
- prediction and summarising;
- understanding of author's language and intent;
- critical thinking and discussion;
- confidence in responding to increasingly complex texts.

Reading lessons encourage children to discuss, question and justify their ideas using evidence from the text. Rich discussion enables pupils to explore themes, characters, language and author's craft while making meaningful connections within and across texts.

### **Building Knowledge Through Reading**

One of the distinctive features of our Reading Curriculum is the way literature is carefully chosen to strengthen learning across the wider curriculum.

Where appropriate, the texts children study link directly with the knowledge they are developing in subjects such as history, geography, science, art and religious education. These carefully planned connections help children:

- revisit previously taught knowledge;
- deepen their understanding of curriculum concepts;
- make meaningful links between subjects;
- develop a broader understanding of the world;
- retain knowledge in their long-term memory.

By connecting reading with the wider curriculum, children are able to build increasingly sophisticated knowledge over time, enabling them to understand more and remember more.

### **Reading for Pleasure**

Alongside our taught Reading Curriculum, we are passionate about developing a genuine love of reading.

Children enjoy:

- daily class story time;
- inviting reading environments;
- our school library;
- poetry;
- author studies;
- reading celebrations and events;
- opportunities to recommend books to one another.

Our carefully curated **Reading Bookshelves** showcase the texts every child will experience throughout the year, helping children understand that reading is a shared journey across the school.

### **Impact:**

By the time children leave Clifton Primary School, they are fluent, confident and enthusiastic readers who enjoy reading widely and often.

They possess:

- strong reading fluency;
- a broad and ambitious vocabulary;
- secure comprehension skills;
- confidence when discussing and analysing texts;
- the ability to make meaningful links across subjects;
- an appreciation of high-quality literature from a wide range of authors and cultures.

Our pupils leave Clifton Primary School with the knowledge, confidence and curiosity needed to continue reading throughout their lives. They understand that reading is not only a vital life skill but also a source of enjoyment, inspiration and lifelong learning.

## Our Reading Journey:

Every child at Clifton Primary School follows a carefully planned Reading Journey from Nursery through to Year 6.

Each year group studies a thoughtfully curated collection of high-quality texts that form the heart of our Reading Curriculum. These texts have been selected not only for their literary quality, but also because they deepen children's understanding of the wider curriculum and broaden their knowledge of the world.

As children progress through school, they revisit significant themes, historical periods, geographical concepts, scientific ideas and important global issues through carefully chosen literature. This enables children to make meaningful connections across their learning, build upon prior knowledge and develop increasingly secure understanding over time.

Our **Reading Bookshelves** showcase the texts every child will experience during the academic year and reflect our commitment to ensuring every pupil benefits from a rich, ambitious and diverse literary diet.

## Progression in Reading:

### **Nursery**

Children develop a love of stories, songs, rhymes and language through high-quality interactions, play-based experiences and daily story times. They begin developing the listening, communication and language skills that underpin future reading success.

### **Reception**

Children continue to develop early language skills whilst beginning formal phonics through **Bug Club Phonics**. They learn to decode words, read simple sentences and develop confidence as early readers.

### **Key Stage One**

Children build secure decoding and fluency through Bug Club Phonics before transitioning towards reading increasingly challenging texts. They develop vocabulary, comprehension and discussion skills while exploring a carefully planned range of high-quality literature.

### **Lower Key Stage Two**

As fluent readers, children begin reading to learn. They encounter increasingly ambitious fiction, poetry and non-fiction, developing inference, interpretation, retrieval and summarising skills while building knowledge across the wider curriculum.

### **Upper Key Stage Two**

Children become reflective and analytical readers who confidently discuss themes, language and author's intent. They justify opinions using evidence, make sophisticated connections across texts and subjects, and draw upon an increasingly rich body of knowledge as they prepare for secondary education.

### **Supporting Reading at Home:**

Reading at home plays a vital role in developing children's confidence, fluency and enjoyment of books.

We encourage parents and carers to:

- read with their child at least three times a week;
- discuss books together;
- revisit favourite stories;
- explore a wide range of fiction and non-fiction;
- visit local libraries;
- celebrate reading for pleasure.

Working together, we can ensure every child develops the skills, confidence and enthusiasm to become a lifelong reader.

#### **Policy updated 19/07/2026**

The School Uniform policy will be reviewed and modified on a regular basis at least every two years or when legislation makes this necessary. It is possible to add amendments to this document prior to a review and these will be incorporated into the next issue. To add comments please complete the information on this sheet adding the date and signing where indicated. Name of person responsible for policy – Mr Connor Bracegirdle (Deputy Headteacher)