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Phonics Policy

Curriculum Statement

At the Emmaus Federation we believe that the teaching of phonics is vital in order for children to become fluent readers and writers by the end of Key Stage One. This policy document sets out the school aims, principles and strategies for the delivery of Phonics within the Federation.

Aims

- To teach pupils how to orally segment and blend in order to encourage good spelling.
- To encourage repetition and consolidation, so that spelling becomes automatic.
- To enable pupils to read and write all graphemes and phonemes in the English language.
- To teach pupils specific strategies to help them remember tricky words.
- To ensure that the teaching of phonics is lively, interactive and stimulating.
- To encourage pupils to apply their phonic skills in all curriculum areas.

Teaching and Learning

Phonics at the Emmaus Federation is taught through the 'Letters and Sounds' programme, which is devised into six phases. Teaching is multi-sensory, encompassing simultaneous visual, auditory and kinaesthetic activities to enliven core learning. Phonics is taught in short, 20-minute, fast-paced sessions and then applied to reading and writing in a meaningful context. All pupils work in a phase that is appropriate to them with set classes across Key Stage One and Key Stage Two. Set classes are fluid and pupils are regularly assessed to ensure they are working in the correct phase. Activities in each phase are well matched to the children's abilities. Across the Emmaus Federation, opportunities are provided for pupils to reinforce and apply acquired phonic knowledge and skills through activities such as writing and reading, both shared, guided and independent.

Reception / Year One

- Daily discrete phonics lessons every day for 20 minutes.
- By the end of Reception, pupils are expected to be at least secure in Phase 3, and by the end of Year One to be secure in Phase 5.

Year Two

- Daily discrete phonics lessons every day for 20 minutes.
- By the end of Year Two, pupils are expected to be secure in Phase 5+ and working within Phase 6.

Planning

The teaching of Phonics is planned using a format which follows the suggested daily teaching sequence set out in 'Letters and Sounds'; *Revisit and Review, Teach, Practise and Apply*. Planning is differentiated to support progress for all learners in accordance to the appropriate age phase.

Differentiation

Across the Emmaus Federation, we aim to encourage all pupils to achieve their full potential. We recognise that phonics planning must allow pupils to gain a progressively deeper understanding of the phonetic structure of the English Language as they move through the school to ensure all children are provided with the key tools needed to become a fluent reader and writer. Careful thought will be given to the provision of appropriately structured work for pupils with SEND, often through intervention groups. The most able children within our school, including those who are Gifted and Talented, are identified so that their individual needs are acknowledged.

Assessment

Children's progress in developing and applying their phonic knowledge will be carefully assessed and monitored regularly. Teachers use daily phonics sessions to monitor children's progress and assess children through their reading and writing. Children working in Phase 2 and Phase 3 across the school will be assessed at the end of each phase. Children working in Phase 4 and Phase 5 across the school will be assessed at the end of each term to measure progress. All pupils will be assessed termly and from this the teacher will decide which phase they should be working at as well as identifying key children and addressing where support or intervention can be introduced.

National Phonic Screening

All pupils in Year One will be screened using the National Assessment materials in Term 6. If the pupils in Year One fail the screening, they will be retested when they are in Year Two. This data will be submitted to the Local Authority.

Signed:

Claire Collett
Executive Headteacher

Ros Blowers
Chair of Governors