



Shankhill C of E Primary School

*Our vision: Creative learning, personal achievement and happiness.
Enabling everyone to flourish and 'to live life in all its fullness'. (John 10:10)*

Learning to Read in Shankhill.

All children learn to read in Shankhill from Nursery and Reception into Year 1, by following the Read Write Inc. programme which teaches the phonetic codes sound by sound and letter by groups of letters. Once your child has mastered the phonic codes of reading, and can read fluently at a steady speed of around 70-90 words per minute, usually around the start of Year 2, we introduce the main school library of books.

Most books within our library are graded in a decimal scale using the Accelerated Reader programme. This grading is based on the content of the books considering the phonic code, longer words, types and lengths of sentences, and grammatical contents of the words.

To ensure that we match your child's reading ability to the right book, we do a STAR reader assessment which is an intelligent computer test that adjusts the challenge to the responses it receives from the pupil until it finds a match that is not too easy and not too difficult to read AND UNDERSTAND – we find their GOLDILOCKS BOOK! The assessment takes into consideration the pupil's knowledge of:

- Phonics – reading sounds, blending the sounds to read words and chunks of words,
- reading longer words,
- reading words in sentences
- being able to understand the entire meaning of that sentence
- the speed and fluency of the reading.

The results of the assessment guide teachers to a range of books that fall within a level of reasonable challenge for the pupil – their ZPD – Zone of proximal Development.

How to support 'Learning to read'

All children across school, right up to Year 6, are expected to read out loud to an adult at least 4 times a week so they are supported, listened to, and also so that they have someone to chat about what they have just read so that it makes sense. This is really important and should be recorded in the reading diary every time. Reading diaries are checked at least every Friday in school.

Children are expected to read shorter books 2 or 3 times so that they confidently understand what is going on. If reading novels, then we encourage pupils to re-read chapters until they know what is happening before moving on.

As soon as a pupil has read their book, they do their quiz in school. Teachers monitor these quizzes, rewarding success and moving through the decimal book programme at a pace that matches the pupil's ability. So, sometimes children remain on a number for a while, or sometimes they can move back or forward through the numbers. The teacher guides this movement.

Thanks for supporting your child with their reading, Mrs Batey

"This school continues to be good... maintains good quality education... pupils gain a sense of achievement from their lessons... they display excellent attitudes towards their learning... behaviour in lessons and around school is impeccable... Staff are welcoming and inclusive... strong Christian values are promoted well... (results) well above that of other schools nationally" Ofsted 2019
Staff "strive to ensure that pupils are happy, while making education fun and enjoyable." Parent View 2018

