



Goldsmith Primary Academy: Approach To Phonics

Intent

At Goldsmith Primary Academy, we are determined that every child learns to read. Our systematic Read Write Inc. programme sets clear expectations for progress each term, ensuring pupils access reading at the right level and pace. Phonics is taught rigorously and consistently across the school, building the foundations for fluent reading and confident communication.

Implementation

- **Nursery:** Children follow Phase 1 Letters and Sounds to develop listening and oral blending skills. In the final term, Read Write Inc. is introduced, teaching pure sounds and blending through engaging mnemonics.
- **Reception & KS1:** Phonics is taught daily in small, assessed groups. Pupils learn and apply Set 1–3 sounds to read and spell words and sentences.
- **LKS2:** Pupils who have not yet secured all phonics knowledge receive targeted daily interventions to close gaps.
- **UKS2:** Children requiring further support access the RWI portal, Toe by Toe and phonetically matched books.
- **Progression:** Children move through RWI storybook levels (Green to Grey) with clear expectations for attainment and fluency.

Impact

- **Assessment:** Baseline and half-termly phonics assessments identify progress and next steps. Groupings are updated every six weeks to ensure precise teaching.
- **Outcomes:** Pupils apply phonics confidently to decode, read fluently and spell accurately. Year 1 pupils complete the Phonics Screening Check, with support continuing for any retakes in Year 2.
- **Intervention:** The lowest 20% receive 1:1 “keep-up” tutoring. Assessments highlight sound gaps and monitor fluency through “alien word” checks.
- **Pupil Voice:**
“Phonics lessons are challenging because there’s always something new to tackle.”
“I love moving up a phonics group – I feel proud.”

Subject Knowledge, Skills and Vocabulary

Our phonics curriculum builds secure knowledge of the alphabetic code and the skills needed for fluent reading and writing. Pupils develop:

- **Sound recognition and blending** – identifying, saying and combining pure sounds to read and spell words.
- **Segmenting and encoding** – applying phonics to write accurately and independently.
- **Fluency and accuracy** – increasing speed and confidence when decoding unfamiliar words.
- **Vocabulary development** – linking new sounds and words to meaning through shared stories and discussion.
- **Application and understanding** – transferring phonics knowledge into wider reading and writing tasks.

Progression from Nursery to KS2 ensures children move from oral blending and simple CVC words to confident, fluent reading and accurate spelling.



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Inclusion

Phonics at Goldsmith is designed to ensure progress for all, including early-stage readers, dyslexic learners and those working significantly below age standard. Homogeneous grouping, daily multisensory teaching and precision interventions ensure rapid access to foundational skills. Ongoing assessment identifies needs promptly, and resources are adapted so that every pupil, regardless of starting point, participates fully and achieves secure decoding and spelling.