

Context

At St Ebbe's, we are passionate about reading. We want all adults and children to love books and reading. Books will introduce them to new worlds; are the key to learning; bring joy and entertainment; and help develop empathy. We are a school that inspires everyone to love reading and talking about reading via a wide range of different texts through shared and explored reading with teachers, parents and peers.

The ability to read and comprehend is the key to children's success at secondary school and in later life. At St Ebbe's, teachers and teaching assistants understand the importance of reading in developing children's ability to direct their own learning and their sense of themselves as learners [\[1\]](#). We aim for every child at St Ebbe's to become a successful reader by using consistent approaches to the teaching of reading and phonics, by ensuring reading remains a priority and by swift identification of children who need additional support via evidenced-based interventions.

We teach reading around the following seven key skills (which correlate to the areas of maths mastery). As active readers, we engage meaningfully with texts (and the world around us) by subconsciously using these skills. By focusing on the teaching of these skills, we ensure that children can develop a more complete understanding of texts.

The Seven Skills



Policy

Teachers will:

Model a love of reading by:

- Reading to their class every day for at least 10 minutes, fostering the enjoyment of reading through a variety of texts, including short and longer stories, poetry, and non-fiction texts
- Ensuring their classrooms have a welcoming reading area, displaying relevant fiction and non-fiction texts related to the current project and other areas of interest for the class
- Sharing their own reading with children.

Facilitate and encourage independent reading by:

Reading and Phonics Policy



- Check Reading Records and put a system in place to identify those not reading at home and ensure they are read with at school
- Make use of their allotted library times to help children select books and make them aware of the range of books available
- Ensuring all pupils have access to books matched to their reading ability through teacher assessment assisted by Star Reader assessments
- Contacting parents not engaging with reading at home to discuss possible barriers.

Teach reading by:

- introducing a new sound daily through Read, Write Inc Phonics in EYFS
- grouping children according to RWI assessments to ensure children make rapid progress
- ensuring a qualified teacher delivers the RWI programme to the lowest 20%, while other groups are taught by trained teachers and teaching assistants.
- supporting comprehension through whole class book talk sessions using the seven skills. Children will also develop these skills during RWI group sessions.
- timetabling whole-class guided reading 3 times per week, planned with reference to the St Ebbe's Guided Reading Planning sheets and focusing on one of the seven skills of reading using modelling and gradual release methods
- modelling reading with class. If another adult is available, this time could also be used for 1:1 reading
- identifying children who need additional support and inform the SENDCo/DHT who will advise on appropriate intervention with reference to the Reading Intervention Guidance

Assess reading by:

- facilitating Star Reading assessments 4 times per year and using the data formatively
- Using RWI assessments and phonics checkers at the beginning of each long term, and at appropriate points when necessary.

Parents are requested to:

- model a love of reading by talking about their own reading with children and by asking about theirs.
- help children to engage with reading every day by listening to them read; reading to them; sharing a book together; reading a newspaper, comic, magazine or recipe; or any suitable reading material. This could be in English or in a home language.
- fill out (or help their child fill out) their child's Reading Record each day.

Children will:

- read at home every day and either ask a parent to record this in their Reading Record or record it themselves
- be responsible for their library books and bring them into school on their allotted library day.

How will we know it's working?

- children will talk enthusiastically about their reading at school and at home, and the books their teacher is reading to them in class
- Star Reading, RWI assessments and teacher assessments will show year-on-year improvement
- Year 1 Phonics results exceed the national average
- KS1 and KS2 SATs Reading results exceed national average.

