



Faith . Hope . Love

## A STRATEGY FOR EXCELLENCE IN EARLY READING AND WIDER READING

### PURPOSE:

The purpose of this strategy document is to set out the school's approach to teaching reading and developing a love of reading.

### AIMS:

- All students achieve fluency in phonics as soon as possible.
- All students achieve fluency and automaticity in age related reading standards.
- All students develop a love of reading inspired by adults in school and at home.

### RATIONALE:

Reading sits in a unique position within the curriculum. It is fundamental to unlocking the wider curriculum and, at its best, allows the pupils to live lives that are profoundly enriched by literature.

We recognise that supporting reading at home will be challenging for some families. It is not acceptable that access to reading development is in any way unequal. Failing to address this would perpetuate inequalities that are present across socio economic groups, would compound the inequalities of starting points for pupils from ethnic groups that are disproportionately represented in low socio-economic groups, and leave pupils with SEND without the support they require.

Diversity in literature is pivotal to the pupils in our school knowing they belong. All children must see themselves in all that we do. It is for that reason we have carefully considered literature that promotes:

- Belonging for ethnic minorities
- Belonging for those with SEND
- Belonging for those who are at risk of being marginalised through disadvantage
- Belonging for the inclusive representation of families

The school's library and reading material is constantly reviewed and evaluated to ensure we sensitively, deliberately, and truthfully address equality and diversity. Our library celebrates the place of our Catholic school in a modern, diverse world, promoting above all that Jesus taught us to love our neighbour.

### **THE RUTH MISKIN PHONICS SCHEME:**

School leaders selected this scheme because it is a systematic phonics scheme. The training and structure support delivery by teaching assistants. Although implementation was extremely expensive at the start, the resources are high quality. Ruth Miskin has been approved by the DFE.

### **THE APPROACH TO READING DEVELOPMENT:**

The components of an excellent reading scheme evolve in content as a pupil improves, but there are threads that are consistent across each phase.

High quality reading development requires a clear focus on the end goal: age related automaticity and comprehension.

The key areas of the strategy are:

- Phonics lessons
- Support for those not yet keeping up with the phonics / reading development programme
- Reading in school
- Reading at home
- Assessment

## What does reading look like at Our Lady's?

