

Phonics teaching at Patrington CE Primary Academy

Phonics sessions are taught daily at Patrington CE Primary Academy from the beginning of Foundation Stage to the end of Year 2, following the Letters and Sounds Scheme of work. This reflects the National Curriculum statutory requirements for English.

Children are also introduced to Jolly Phonics, where each letter has a character, an action to reinforce the phoneme (sound) the letter represents and a song. This helps support the very earliest acquisition of phonics and pupils are helped to develop a pure sound without the schwa (the “a” sound) on the end of the sound.

The Letters and Sounds scheme is grouped into phases and pupils progress from phase 1 to phase 6, Pupils learn about GPCs (grapheme-phoneme correspondences), consonant digraphs, vowel digraphs and trigraphs. Children develop knowledge of how to blend and segment the phonemes within words, including those with adjacent consonants.

Within phase 5, pupils progress to learning about split digraphs, alternative pronunciations of the same grapheme, and alternative representations of the same phoneme.

Phase 6 concentrates on developing spelling rules and enhance reading strategies. The reading and spelling of high frequency words are taught throughout the academic year, as part of phonic development, along with how to spell tricky words which may not fit conventional spelling rules.

Phonics is taught in a variety of ways, including high quality modelling of sounding out, decoding, segmenting and blending strategies. Interactive resources and games are used and children are given the opportunity to rehearse sounds verbally and record them in written work.

Phonics sessions are structured to build on previous learning and introduce new phonics skills and subject knowledge.

Sessions are planned to include opportunities for development of speaking and listening, reading and writing.

Each June, all children in Year 1 undertake a National Phonics Screening Check. This check consists of 40 words (20 real words and 20 pseudo words which are the names of some very interesting aliens) which all children will be asked to read. The focus of this check is to see if pupils can decode a range of words which they have not seen before. If the standard for this assessment is not reached, then pupils will be retested in year 2. Pupils who still do not achieve the appropriate level receive additional support as they move into KS2.

In KS2, phonics will be taught regularly using the National Curriculum spelling work which forms part of the appendix for the English curriculum. The aim in KS2 is for pupils to be able to spell accurately whenever they write.