

Curriculum Intent – Reading

At Shine Academies, we believe in encouraging pupils to foster a love of reading for pleasure. Pupils who read on a regular basis in school - and at home - have a higher chance of fulfilling their academic potential.

We aim for reading to permeate all areas of the curriculum. Independent reading, and reading as a class, are integrated into the existing curriculum, with aspects of this policy used in everyday teaching. A wide variety of texts are available in order to provide pupils with a range of reading options.

The aim of this policy is to instil a passion for reading in pupils, which they will carry on into subsequent phases of education, and into later life.

The programmes of study in Key Stage 1 and 2 consist of:

- Word reading.
- Comprehension (both listening and reading).

It is essential that teaching focuses on developing competence in both ways; different teaching is required for each.

Skilled word reading involves quickly working out the pronunciation of unfamiliar words and speedily recognising familiar words. Underpinning both is the understanding that the letters represent sounds in spoken words. This is why phonics is emphasised in the early teaching of reading to beginners (i.e. unskilled readers) when they start school.

Good comprehension draws from knowledge of linguistics and the world. Comprehension skills develop through pupils' experience of high-quality discussion with their teachers, as well as from reading and discussing a range of stories, poems and non-fiction: it is with this in mind that we allow plenty of opportunity for reading and discussion of class novels within our Reading lessons, ensuring pupils – particularly those who struggle to comprehend texts – are given access to many points of view and are exposed to the reasoning skills of their peers.

All pupils are encouraged to read widely across both fiction and non-fiction to develop their knowledge of themselves and the world in which they live, to establish an appreciation and love of reading, and to gain knowledge across the curriculum. Reading widely often increases pupils' vocabulary because they encounter words they would rarely hear or use in everyday speech. Reading also feeds pupils' imagination and opens up a treasure-house of wonder and joy for curious young minds. It is essential that, by the end of their time within The Trust, all pupils are able to read fluently, and with confidence, in any subject in their forthcoming secondary education.