



Shining Together Through Courage, Connection and Curiosity.

Guided by Christian values, we inspire every child to let their light shine through a love of learning.

'Let your light shine for all to see' Matthew 5:16

Reading

Intent

At our school, we believe that reading is the key that unlocks learning, understanding and opportunity. Through our vision of "**Shining Together Through Courage, Connection and Curiosity**", and guided by our Christian values, we inspire every child to let their light shine through a lifelong love of reading.

We intend for all children to become fluent, confident and enthusiastic readers who can access, understand and respond thoughtfully to a diverse range of texts. Reading enables children to develop knowledge, empathy, imagination and aspiration, equipping them to flourish both academically and personally.

We want our children to have the courage to explore unfamiliar texts and ideas, the curiosity to ask questions and seek understanding, and the connection to recognise and value the experiences of others. Through carefully chosen literature, children encounter different cultures, perspectives and experiences, helping them develop respect, compassion and a deeper understanding of the world God created.

Our reading curriculum provides opportunities for children to develop spiritually through:

Mirrors (Myself): Children reflect on their own experiences, beliefs, feelings and values through characters, themes and personal responses to texts.

Doors (Others): Children develop empathy and understanding by stepping into the lives, experiences and viewpoints of others, recognising diversity and valuing every individual.

Windows (Beauty): Children encounter the beauty, wonder and creativity found within language, storytelling, poetry and the wider world presented through literature.

Candles (Beyond): Children are encouraged to ask deeper questions about meaning, purpose, faith, justice and their place in God's world, inspired by the texts they read.

Through reading, we aim to nurture children who embody our vision and truly live out the words of Matthew 5:16:

"Let your light shine for all to see."

Implementation

Our reading curriculum is carefully designed to develop fluent, skilled readers whilst fostering a genuine love of reading. Through high-quality teaching, rich literary experiences and a culture that celebrates reading, children are supported to make excellent progress throughout their reading journey.

Early Reading and Phonics

In EYFS and Key Stage 1, children follow the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds programme. This systematic approach ensures that children develop secure phonological awareness, decoding skills and reading fluency from the earliest stages of learning.

Children take part in daily phonics lessons and read three times per week in a small group, using books carefully matched to their developing phonic knowledge. Additional support and intervention are provided promptly for children who require further assistance, ensuring a 'keep up not catch up' approach.

Developing Reading Skills

In KS2, children take part in whole class guided reading sessions. A book is carefully chosen each term and children are taught a range of reading comprehension skills. The VIPERS approach supports the teaching of:

- Vocabulary
- Inference
- Prediction
- Explanation
- Retrieval
- Sequence and Summarise

Texts are chosen to inspire curiosity, broaden knowledge and promote meaningful discussion. Children explore a rich range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry that reflects diverse voices, cultures and experiences.

Reading for Pleasure

We place reading at the heart of school life. Children have regular opportunities to read independently, share books with adults and peers and engage with texts purely for enjoyment. Development of the school library is a key priority this year to further foster a love of reading across school.

Through story times, class novels, book events and reading celebrations, we aim to foster a lifelong love of reading that extends beyond the classroom.

Spiritual Development Through Reading

Reading provides rich opportunities for spiritual growth. Teachers intentionally plan opportunities for children to engage with texts through the lens of:

- **Mirrors** by encouraging self-reflection and personal response.
- **Doors** by exploring diverse experiences and perspectives.
- **Windows** by appreciating beauty, creativity and wonder in language and the world.
- **Candles** by discussing deeper questions about faith, meaning, morality and purpose.

These opportunities encourage thoughtful discussion, reflection and personal growth whilst supporting our Christian vision and values.

Assessment and Support

In EYFS and KS1, reading is assessed through the Little Wandle Programme. Half termly checks ensure children who are at risk of falling behind are quickly identified and interventions put in place. Ongoing daily summative teacher assessment is also crucial in identifying any gaps.

In KS2, reading progress is monitored through formative assessment, pupil discussions, observation, summative assessments and regular reading assessments. Assessment information is used to identify next steps and ensure appropriate support and challenge for all pupils.

Impact

The impact of our reading curriculum is seen in children who are confident, fluent and enthusiastic readers, equipped with the skills needed to access all areas of the curriculum and the wider world.

Children leave our school able to:

- Read accurately, fluently and with understanding.
- Discuss and evaluate a wide range of texts thoughtfully and confidently.
- Demonstrate curiosity and a desire to learn through reading.
- Make meaningful connections between texts, themselves, others and the wider world.

- Appreciate the richness and beauty of language and literature.
- Show empathy, respect and understanding towards different perspectives and experiences.
- Reflect deeply on questions of meaning, faith, values and purpose.

Our pupils develop the courage to explore new ideas, the curiosity to seek deeper understanding and the connection to engage positively with others. They become readers who not only achieve well academically but who carry a lifelong love of reading that enables them to continue learning and shining throughout their lives.

Through reading, children are empowered to let their light shine, living out our school vision and Christian values in all that they do.

Spiritual Impact

As a result of planned spiritual development opportunities within reading, children increasingly:

- Understand themselves and their own values (**Mirrors**).
- Develop empathy and appreciation for others (**Doors**).
- Recognise beauty, wonder and creativity in literature and the world (**Windows**).
- Engage with deeper questions about faith, meaning and purpose (**Candles**).

These experiences help children grow into thoughtful, reflective and compassionate individuals who are ready to contribute positively to their communities and the wider world