

Sleights Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School

Reading Policy

(including Early Reading/Phonics)

Reviewed September 2024

This policy will identify the intent, implementation and impact expected within the teaching of reading at Sleights. The policy has been established through staff consultation (meetings and discussion) following a period of subject audit and monitoring.



In our Church school, our vision is to "work together to be happy; to flourish; to succeed" The policy was written in September 2021, following the introduction of 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds' early reading programme. It was revised in September 2024, following the implementation of the fluency programme, within our school's approach.

Our Christian Values of are firmly rooted in this policy.

Christian Value	How is this value lived out in our Reading policy?
	I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4.13)
	As a school, we recognise entirely that learning is a journey and something that requires the input and support of the entire school community. It is this input and
Perseverance	support that will enable all children to have the confidence to persevere. At all stages
rei severunce	of the process of learning to read, we face challenges. Our dedicated school
	community works together to provide support, encouragement and tools to support
	all children to become confident, resilient and happy readers.
	So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you (Matthew 7:12)
	We believe that a key element of reading (and particularly reading for pleasure) is
	providing children with choice. We aim to ensure that all children have a love for
Respect	reading and treat all children (and staff) with the respect to recognise that the choice
	of texts you read may not always be what you first thought and, therefore, changes
	can be made. We respect the children's opinions enough to allow and support this
	process.
	My God is my strength in whom I trust (Psalm 18:2)
	The journey of teaching children to read is something that involves many people.
	Establishing mutual trust amongst staff, children, families and the whole community
Trust	will ensure that there is a trusting environment for all to flourish. At Sleights, we take
	steps to establish trust in relation to the teaching of reading, including parent
	workshops when children join Reception and ongoing support throughout the school
	year.

Reading at Sleights involves:

Exploring a rich, high quality collection of texts. These include a wide array of stories, graphic novels, poems, non-fiction texts and magazines.

Careful analysis and study of a range of texts using reciprocal reading strategies (Predict, Clarify, Question, Summarise)

Highly effective and high quality phonics teaching, following the Little Wandle programme, equipping all children with the tools and strategies required to read and write.

A systematic, well planned approach to developing children's fluency and accuracy, through the Little Wandle fluency programme.

Statement of Reading Intent

The children at Sleights will be provided with a reading curriculum offer designed to:

- Establish an exciting, inspiring and engaging reading culture across school.
- Instil a love of reading and reading for pleasure across the school community.
- Reading will be 'right from the start', through high quality phonics teaching and provision.
- Equip children with a range of techniques to support comprehension and questioning of key information.
- Support children to read regularly.
- Allow children to access and read a significant range of high quality texts, including fiction and nonfiction, in a well organised and carefully planned system.

- Engage all children to read exciting and suitable texts by ensuring a range of texts are on offer to all children, including high quality phonetically decodable books and low level, high interest examples.
- Inspire and scaffold all staff to become reading experts.
- Provide children with language and vocabulary to support them to articulate their thoughts, ideas and opinions about texts they have read.
- Build on their growing knowledge of the alphabetic code, mastering phonics to read and spell as they move through school, through the use of Little Wandle.
- Model the application of phonics through shared reading and writing, both inside and outside of the phonics lesson and across the curriculum.
- Support children to develop fluency in reading, with an ambition for all children to be able to read
 fluently (at a rate of 120 words per minute) with at least 90% accuracy.

Statement of Reading Implementation

We are proud to provide an exciting and varied reading diet for the children of Sleights to ensure that the statement of intent for the curriculum is positively and successfully implemented across school. The implementation of reading at Sleights includes:

- Well planned and highly focused reading practice sessions, focusing on developing prosody, decoding and comprehension skills.
- Individual reading sessions (one to one)
- Daily phonics sessions across the Early Years Foundation Stage and into Key Stage One. Support and
 individual sessions are delivered to those children elsewhere in school who may continue to require
 additional support. This is implemented through the Little Wandle Rapid Catch Up, Keep Up or SEND
 programmes.
- Fluency sessions (three times a week) for all children, until a reading speed of 120 words per minute, at 90% accuracy is achieved.
- Supporting all stakeholders to read regularly, through monitoring of our school reading challenge.
- Tasks designed to promote reading for pleasure.
- Ongoing, high quality and targeted staff training and development.

At Sleights, Little Wandle: Letters and Sounds Revised is used to underpin the teaching of Phonics. Phonics is taught primarily in Early Years Foundation Stage and across Key Stage One. However, some children continue to benefit from additional phonics teaching (in small groups) across Key Stage Two.

Within phonics sessions, children are taught to understand, apply and use the principles of linking letter sounds (phonemes) to their written representation (graphemes). This is undertaken in a range of practical activities in the classroom.

Each phonics session involves opportunities to:

- 1. Revisit and review known phonemes and graphemes
- 2. Teach new phonemes and graphemes
- 3. Practise new content
- 4. Apply in a context

This programme is implemented across school in a number of ways:

Foundations for Phonics in Nursery

We provide a balance of child-led and adult-led experiences for all children that meet the curriculum expectations for 'Communication and language' and 'Literacy'. The programme provides foundations for phonics, a love of reading and language. These include:

- sharing high-quality stories and poems
- learning a range of nursery rhymes and action rhymes
- activities that develop focused listening and attention, including oral blending
- attention to high-quality language.
- using a range of communication strategies and tools.

- We ensure Nursery children are well prepared to begin learning grapheme-phoneme correspondences (GPCs) and blending in Reception.
- Little Wandle Foundations is aligned to the non-statutory guidance on Development Matters and Birth to 5 Matters as well as the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework. We use it as part of our wider provision for Communication and Language, and Literacy. It supports children to:
 - develop their phonological awareness, including rhyme, alliteration, syllables, initial and voice sounds, and oral blending
 - o love stories and rhymes, and learn by heart a bank of familiar favourites
 - o increase their vocabulary and confidence to talk
 - o improve their listening and ability to take part in back-and-forth conversations.
- We believe that the priority in Nursery should be to build the foundations for phonics for all
 children. Research tells us that disadvantaged children start Nursery behind their more fortunate
 peers. By leaving formal phonics teaching to Reception, Foundations allows us to devote more time
 to working with children who need extra help to develop the skills and behaviours that underpin
 successful reading.

Daily phonics lessons in Reception and Year 1

- We teach phonics between 20-30 minutes a day. In Reception, we build from 10-minute lessons, with additional daily oral blending games, to the full-length lesson as quickly as possible. Each Friday, we review the week's teaching to help children become fluent readers.
- Children make a strong start in Reception: teaching begins in Week 2 of the Autumn term.
- We follow the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds reading progression.
- Children in Reception are taught to read and spell words using Phase 2 and 3 GPCs, and words with adjacent consonants (Phase 4) with fluency and accuracy.
- Children in Year 1 review Phase 3 and 4 and are taught to read and spell words using Phase 5 GPCs with fluency and accuracy.

Daily Keep-up lessons ensure every child learns to read

- Any child who needs additional practice has daily Keep-up support, taught by a fully trained adult. Keep-up lessons match the structure of class teaching, and use the same procedures, resources and mantras, but in smaller steps with more repetition, so that every child secures their learning.
- We timetable daily phonics lessons for any child in Year 2 or 3 who is not fully fluent at reading
 or has not passed the Phonics Screening Check. We use the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds
 Revised assessments to identify the gaps in their phonic knowledge and teach to these using the
 Keep-up resources at pace.
- If any child in Year 3 to 6 has gaps in their phonic knowledge when reading or writing, we plan phonics 'catch-up' lessons to address specific reading/writing gaps. These short, sharp lessons last 10 minutes and take place at least three times a week.

Teaching reading: Reading practice sessions three times a week

We teach children to read through reading practice sessions three times a week. These:

- are taught by a fully trained adult to small groups of approximately six children
- use books matched to the children's secure phonic knowledge using the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised assessments
- ullet are monitored by the class teacher, who rotates and works with each group on a regular basis.
- Each reading practice session has a clear focus, so that the demands of the session do not overload
 the children's working memory. The reading practice sessions have been designed to focus on three
 key reading skills:
 - decoding
 - prosody: teaching children to read with understanding and expression
 - comprehension: teaching children to understand the text.

- In Reception these sessions start in Week 4. Children who are not yet decoding have daily
 additional blending practice in small groups, so that they quickly learn to blend and can begin to
 read books.
- Children read each book three times to develop phonemic awareness, vocabulary and comprehension as well as book behaviours.
- In Year 2, we ensure children complete reading the core programme decodable books (up to Phase 5 Set 5). To exit the programme, we complete the final fluency assessment to ensure children can read with adequate speed and accuracy: approximately 60 words per minute with 90%+ accuracy.
- Reading in Rapid Catch-up lessons mirrors the core programme. Children following the Rapid Catch-up programme are taught to read using the 7+ fully decodable books. These follow the same progression as the core programme but are more appropriate for older readers.

Teaching reading: Fluency programme

- We teach reading to children in Year 2 and above who have exited the core programme using Little Wandle Fluency.
- Each Fluency reading lesson is 25 to 30 minutes. The structure of every lesson is the same:
 - o A pre-read to practise reading words and to support vocabulary
 - o Children read aloud for ten minutes and the teacher 'taps in' to hear every child read
 - o Focussed teaching of prosody, repeated reading and comprehension through discussion.
- We assess reading speed and accuracy every 12 weeks and use these assessments to monitor progress and allocate books.
- We also use Assessment for Learning and our professional judgement to assess each child's progress in reading, so we can ensure that they have the right books to meet their needs.
- We review children's prosody by using the Prosody grid. This gives us a picture of how well the child is reading aloud.
- Comprehension is taught through dialogic talk and teachers use their assessment to quickly address misconceptions and develop children's curiosity and engagement with each book.

Home reading

- The decodable reading practice book is taken home to ensure success is shared with the family.
- Reading for pleasure books also go home for parents to share and read to children.
- We use the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised resources to engage our families and share
 information about phonics, the benefits of sharing books, how children learn to blend and other
 aspects of our provision, both online and through workshops.

Additional reading support for vulnerable children

- Children in Reception and Year 1 who are receiving additional phonics Keep-up sessions read their reading practice book to an adult daily.
- We prioritise children who may not have reading support at home or who may not have access to books. We ensure that they have individual reading times with volunteers and staff to share quality children's literature to promote a love of reading.

Ensuring consistency and pace of progress

- Every teacher in our school has been trained to teach reading, so we have the same expectations
 of progress. We all use the same language, routines and resources to teach children to read so that
 we lower children's cognitive load.
- Weekly content grids map each element of new learning to each day, week and term for the duration of the programme.
- Ongoing monitoring of reading sessions and impact, including regular reading with the English leader and gathering pupil voice, allows us to ensure consistency and pace of progress is in place.

Statement of Reading Impact

Our children are motivated and enjoy reading, which leads to their academic success.

Assessment

Assessment is used to monitor progress and to identify any child needing additional support as soon as they need it.

Assessment for learning is used:

- daily within class to identify children needing Keep-up support
- weekly in the Review lesson to assess gaps, address these immediately and secure fluency of GPCs, words and spellings.

Summative assessment is used:

- every six weeks to assess progress, to identify gaps in learning that need to be addressed, to
 identify any children needing additional support and to plan the Keep-up support that they
 need.
- by teachers, support staff and leaders to who drill down and look at the data at GPC, word, tricky word and sentence level
- by leaders to scrutinise and plan how to narrow the attainment gaps between different groups of children and to put in place any additional support for teachers.

We assess:

- every six weeks to assess progress and to identify gaps in learning that need to be reviewed or retaught
- to establish if learning is secure for more than 70% of children before new content is taught
- to identify any children needing additional support and to plan the Keep-up support that they need

We reassess every three weeks every child who is not on track.

Fluency assessments

Fluency assessments measure children's accuracy and reading speed in short one-minute assessments. They are used:

- in Year 1 and Year 2, when children are reading the Phase 5 Set 3, 4 and 5 books
- with children following the Rapid Catch-up programme in Years 2 to 6, when they are reading the Phase 5 Set 3, 4 and 5 books
- to assess when children are ready to exit their programme*
- for children in Year 2 and above who are taught Little Wandle Fluency. These assessments identify the best Fluency book level for each child. We assess the children every term (every 12 weeks or so).
- Year 2 children can exit the Rapid-Catch-up programme when they can read the final fluency assessment at 60–70+ words per minute. Older children can exit the Rapid Catch-up programme when they read the final fluency assessment at 90+ words per minute. At these levels, children should have sufficient fluency to tackle any book at age-related expectations. After exiting their programme, children do not need to read any more fully decodable books.

Placement assessment

Placement assessments are used with any child new to the school in Reception and Year 1 to quickly identify any gaps in their phonic knowledge and to plan and provide appropriate extra teaching.

Statutory assessment

- Children in Year 6 and Year 2 complete End of Key Stage SATs assessments.
- Children in Year 1 sit the Phonics Screening Check. Any child not passing the check re-sits it in Year 2.
- Children in Reception are assessed against the Early Years framework.

Ongoing assessment for catch-up

- Children in Year 2 to 6 are assessed through their teacher's ongoing formative assessment, as
 well as through the half-termly Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised summative
 assessments.
- Children's reading is also assessed each term across school, using NTS (Rising Stars)
 assessments.

Reading resources at Sleights

Books are organised at Sleights across our school libraries and classroom library areas. The library contains:

- Reading books linked to our reading approach (Little Wandle). These books are used in school and are
 read at home too. These are main programme books, catch up books (including for those children 7+)
 and fluency books.
- Wider fiction books. These are designed for children to read once they have completed the main teaching programme for phonics and the fluency phase.
- A wide range of picture books. This includes a specific section of picture books for older children identified as "Illustrated texts for older children"
- Graphic Novels
- Short Stories
- Poetry
- Magazines
- We also have a wide range of texts to support the curriculum delivery across foundation subjects. These are organised into curriculum area categories and sub topic areas within this.

We believe that regardless of which stage you are working, you are also entitled to choose a text that is perhaps more, or less, of a challenge for you. With this in mind, all children read a book that is matched to their reading level and ability. However, children also have the option to have additional books, at different levels, to enjoy. This could be alongside staff, or family members. For example, in Early Years, children bring home books for pleasure and interest, alongside their phonics programme books. We intend for this decision to promote the children to make positive reading choices and know that they are firmly responsible for their own reading choices.

Reading programme books organisation and categories

The table below shows the organisation of books for the phonics and fluency programmes. We only use Little Wandle books and do not use any additional scheme texts.

Little Wandle Programme Book Organisation								
Book Band Phase	Phonic Phase	Expected Points	Graphemes					
Foundations for Phonics	Pre Phase 2	Pre- School						
Phase 2	Phase 2 / Set A	Autumn One Reception	Set 1: satp Set 2: inmd Set 3: gock Set 4: ckeur Set 5: hbfl					
	Phase 2 / Set B	Autumn Two Reception	Set 1: If Il so j Set 2: v w x y Set 3: z zz qu ch -s Set 4: sh th ng nk Set 5: -s (s) -s (z)					

	Little Wandle Programme Book Organisation <i>continued</i>						
Book Band	Phonic	Expected					
Phase	Phase	Points	Ciapianas				
Phase 3	Phase 3	Spring One Reception	Set 1: ai ee igh oa Set 2: oo oo ar or Set 3: ur ow oi ear				
		(Spring Two Content Review)	Set 4: air er Set 5: double letters				
Phase 4	Phase 4	Summer Term Reception	-ed -est				
Phase 5	Phase 5 / Set A	Autumn Term Year 1	Review Phase 3 and 4 Set 1: ai/ay ow/ou oi/oy ea/e Set 2: ur/ir igh/ie oo/yoo/ue yoo/u Set 3: oa/o igh/I ai/a ee/e Set 4: ai/a-e igh/i-e oa/o-e oo/yoo/u-e Set 5: ee/e-e oo/yoo/ew ee/ie or/aw				
	Phase 5 / Set B	Spring One Year 1	Set 1: ee/y e/ea w/wh oa/oe/ou Set 2: igh/y oa/ow j/g f/ph Set 3: l/le s/c v/ve Set 4: z/se s/se/ce ee/ey u/o-e/o/ou				
Phase 5	Phase 5 / Set C	Set 1: ur/or oo/u/oul air/are or/au/aur/oor/al Spring Two Set 3: or/a o/a air/ear/ere Year 1 Set 4: ur/ear r/wr s/st/sc Set 5: c/ch sh/ch z/ze					
. 1	Phase 5 / Set D	Summer Year 1	Set 1: ai/eigh/aigh ey ea n/kn/gn m/mb ear/ere/eer Set 2: zh/su/si j/dge i/y j/ge Set 3: sh/ti/ssi/si/ci Set 4: or/augh/our/oar/ore				
Fluency 1	60 wpm		Pupils need to read at 60 wpm, 90% fluency				
Fluency 2	70 wpm		Pupils need to read at 70 wpm, 90% fluency				
Fluency 3	80 wpm		Pupils need to read at 80 wpm, 90% fluency				
Fluency 4	85 wpm		Pupils need to read at 85 wpm, 90% fluency				
Fluency 5	90 wpm	From	Pupils need to read at 90 wpm, 90% fluency				
Fluency 6	95 wpm	autumn 2, Year 2	Pupils need to read at 95 wpm, 90% fluency				
Fluency 7	100 wpm		Pupils need to read at 100 wpm, 90% fluency				
Fluency 8	110 wpm		Pupils need to read at 110 wpm, 90% fluency				
Fluency 9	115 wpm	Pupils need to read at 115 wpm. 90% fluency					
Fluency 10	120 wpm		Pupils need to read at 120wpm, 90% fluency				

Beyond the Little Wandle Programme Book

Following the successful competition of the Little Wandle Programme, including the Fluency programme, children have access to a wide range of texts. These texts are organised across six different groups of texts. These texts are all fully decodable and built opportunities to experience more challenging and longer texts over time. These books are organised into the categories below.

White	Lime	Brown	Grey	Dark Blue	Black

Where are reading resources organised at Sleights?

Across the school, a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts are well-organised and accessible for the children to access. Books are primarily organised into the following groups:

Texts used for INDIVIDUAL READING

These texts are either main programme phonics books, fluency books, or books beyond the programme. All programme books, including catch up and fluency texts, are stored centrally outside the staff room in clearly marked book boxes.

The main school library also contains a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books. These are available to be borrowed by all. The space is open for children to use during the school day, including playtimes. Before and after school, families are also able to visit the library.

• Texts used for WHOLE CLASS READING

These collections are used by whole classes across school to teach reading comprehension. These books are generally stored in classroom libraries. We continue to revise the collections of books available for guided reading to ensure all children have access to age related texts to support their whole class sessions.

• Texts organised into CLASSROOM COLLECTIONS

We think that it is vital for our children to have access to texts from the main school collection. With this in mind, each classroom has their own library space that the children curate. In each classroom, a library of wider fiction and non-fiction books is chosen by the children in that class. These are kept well organised and used regularly. Books are rotated between classrooms and the school library.

How is reading recorded?

Notes and assessments of children's reading should be kept by staff in a range of ways. These will include:

• Little Wandle Reading Practise Sheets

For all reading practise sessions (main programme and fluency programme), staff use the Little Wandle recording sheets. These provide a consistent and clear overview of progress and assessment from the sessions.

Planning

Each guided reading session is planned individually, with a clear focus objective. Notes of progress and assessment should be recorded on this planning tool.

• Reading Diaries

Each child across the school (from Explorers' class) will have their own reading diary. It is expected that individual reading, as well as guided reading, is recorded in this home/school book.

Class Reading Challenge

A challenge for each child to read at least 25 times is in place each half term. Children and staff tick off when they have read on the chart. This record enables children to be identified as focus readers. In these instances, staff will ensure these children are read with more regularly in school. Staff names should also be recorded on the chart to model reading 25 times to the children.

Reciprocal Reading

At Sleights, we use the structure and principles of Reciprocal Reading to support reading sessions. This involves teachers and volunteers modelling reading, thinking aloud and asking key questions to lead group discussions. The key principles of Reciprocal Reading are:

- Predicting
- Questioning
- Clarifying
- Summarising

Processes for Individual Reading sessions

One to one reading sessions provide an invaluable opportunity to work alongside children with a text chosen by them. Individual teaching points, perhaps identified from guided reading, can be addressed, as well as support and development for reading for fluency.

Individual reading sessions will, primarily, involve hearing the child read, but can also involve both adult and child reading together. This provides an excellent tool to model reading and will be most commonly seen in the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Throughout individual reading sessions, children should be asked to give predictions, offer opinions, share ideas and answer comprehension questions.

The length of an individual session will vary, but should always enable a dialogue about reading. These sessions should not simply be 'hearing the child read'.

At the end of each individual reading session, a short note should be made in the children's reading diary. This should include page number, date and initials of adult read.

Reading Checklist

To support all reading sessions, but particularly guided reading, the following checklist should be followed. The checklist is written for those leading reading sessions and designed to establish a clear process to the teaching of reading and structure of reading sessions.

1. Be prepared:

- Make sure you have read the text.
- Know what you want the focus to be and which words/phrases you will unpick and teach explicitly.

2. Give the context:

- Context is essential.
- Do children know about the locations in the text, or the era in which it is set? Use pictures, maps,
 videos to give children the background knowledge and context they need.

3. Read the entire text aloud:

- You are the best reader in the group. Nobody can read it better!
- Use this opportunity to model, emphasise and express words and reading.
- Pick struggling readers to echo certain sentences, or words.

4. Follow along:

- Make sure children follow along when you are reading with a ruler.
- They will need a copy of their own text.

5. Stop:

Ensure you stop reading aloud frequently in order to clarify the meaning of language you have read.

6. Stop:

- Stopping to summarise what has happened is vital in ensuring that NO child is left behind.
- If children do not understand what is happening, tell them.

7. Stop:

Make sure you pause to explain and offer insight into character and plot lines.

8. Give the children the answers:

- Imagine the perfect answer you would like to get from the children and then give it to them.
- Begin sentences with key phrases and structures children can use.
- Use the process to think aloud and model to children what you expect:
- "The reason X is responding like this is because... This shows us that... From this we can see... It is clear that ..."

9. Use questioning:

 Ask questions to test the children's understanding of the points in this checklist. Reciprocal reading strategies would continue to support this process.

10. Ask yourself:

• Did the children comprehend more today than they would have one without my teaching?

Vocabulary

When vocabulary is discussed and explored in reading sessions, classrooms are encouraged to highlight this and celebrate words. Classrooms will highlight and celebrate language from reading books individually.

Promoting Reading for Pleasure

'Reading for pleasure is the single most important indicator of a child's success.' (OECD 2002) 'The will influences the skill and vice versa.' (OECD 2010)

A number of strategies are in place across the school to celebrate and promote reading and particularly reading for pleasure. The list below is not exhaustive and provides a summary of some key strategies in place across school.

Class Books

We expect that all children are read to every day. This will take many forms, but primarily should be made up of enjoying a class text. This book should be age appropriate and does not need to link to the topic. The class text should be promoted in the room to all children, families and visitors through:

- "We are reading..." boards
- An image of the book cover, or the book itself
- An evolving space for questions and pupil voice about the book.

Reading Charts

Unsurprisingly, research identifies that there is a clear correlation between how regularly children read and their subsequent success. With this in mind, each half term, a reading challenge to read at least 25 times over the half term is in place for all children and staff. This chart is celebrated in classrooms.

Reader Leaders

To promote pupil leadership and voice in relation to reading, a number of Year 5 and 6 children are trained to be 'Reader Leaders'. These children will promote reading across school, as well as be on hand to read with other children in the library at break/lunchtimes, keep the setting well organised etc.

Staff Recommendations

Within the recently developed library space, display boards are given to staff to promote their recommended reads. This extends into individual classrooms, where promoted texts, or a book of the week, chosen by staff is available for children to enjoy.

School Library

The school library contains a vast array of high quality texts. The space has been redeveloped and is designed to provide a homely, cosy feel, so that the children and their families feel comfortable in it. The space is open all day, including before and after school for parents and families to visit.

Topic Book Displays

Around school, displays of topic books are displayed. For example, around the science resources are linked text to the whole school topic for the half term.

Texts through Collective Worship

Carefully chosen texts are identified to support whole school Collective Worship. These are used to support the delivery or understanding of a key message or value being explored across the school. This will also include opportunities to develop children's understanding of the British Values and Cultural Capital.