

Phonics Policy

The Eden School



Approved by:

The Board of
Governors

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Last reviewed on:

1st September 2025

Next review due by:

31st August 2026

Introduction

At The Eden School, we aim to provide an outstanding phonics education that builds a strong foundation for reading and writing. Our rigorous and systematic approach, underpinned by the **Twinkl Phonics Programme**, ensures every child progresses with confidence and achieves fluency in reading and writing. We are committed to creating a language-rich environment, promoting inclusivity, and fostering a love of reading for life. This policy outlines our approach to teaching phonics, reflecting our commitment to clarity, robustness, rigour, and fidelity.

Aims

Through the Twinkl Phonics Programme, we aim to:

1. Deliver consistent, high-quality phonics teaching across all year groups.
2. Equip pupils with the skills to decode words and develop fluency in reading.
3. Support the application of phonics knowledge in writing and spelling.
4. Provide tailored support to meet the diverse needs of all pupils, including those with additional needs.
5. Engage parents in their child's phonics journey and provide tools to support learning at home.

Programme Overview

We follow the **Twinkl Phonics Programme**, a Department for Education (DfE)-validated systematic synthetic phonics programme that ensures structured progression.

Key Features:

- **Twinkl Phonics Levels:** Covering Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) to Key Stage 2 (KS2).
- **Daily Phonics Lessons:** 20-30 minutes in Reception and KS1, with additional intervention sessions for pupils needing extra support.
- **Interactive Teaching:** Lessons include engaging songs, actions, and multi-sensory activities to ensure all learners are fully immersed.
- **Progression:** Pupils move systematically from Level 1 (foundations of sound discrimination) to Level 6 (mastery of advanced spelling rules and fluency).
- **Application in Context:** Pupils apply phonics skills in reading books matched to their phonics level and in their writing across the curriculum.

Teaching Approach

Our phonics lessons are structured using the Twinkl Phonics model:

1. **Revisit and Review:** Reinforce previously taught phonemes, graphemes, and tricky words.
2. **Teach:** Introduce new sounds, tricky words, or spelling patterns using interactive Twinkl resources.
3. **Practise:** Engage pupils in multi-sensory activities, including blending and segmenting words.
4. **Apply:** Use phonic knowledge in reading sentences, captions, or decodable texts.
5. **Assess:** Check understanding through oral and written tasks, providing immediate feedback.

Assessment

1. **Baseline Assessments:** Conducted in EYFS to determine each child's starting point.
2. **Formative Assessments:** Embedded in daily teaching to monitor progress and inform planning.
3. **Phonics Screening Check:** Administered in Year 1 to assess reading fluency and decoding ability. Pupils who do not meet the threshold receive targeted interventions and retake the screening in Year 2.
4. **Summative Assessments:** Termly assessments using Twinkl's diagnostic tools to track progress and identify gaps.

Interventions

For pupils requiring additional support:

- Targeted small-group or one-to-one intervention sessions led by trained staff.
- Use of Twinkl's intervention materials and resources tailored to individual needs.
- Continuation of phonics teaching into KS2 for pupils not meeting expected standards in KS1.

Parental Engagement

We believe parents are crucial partners in their child's learning journey. To foster this partnership, we:

- Host phonics workshops to familiarise parents with the Twinkl Phonics Programme.
- Provide regular updates on their child's progress through parent-teacher meetings and written reports.
- Share home learning resources, such as phonics games and reading lists.
- Encourage the use of Twinkl's online resources to reinforce learning at home.

Inclusion and Accessibility

We are committed to ensuring all pupils, regardless of their background or ability, can access high-quality phonics teaching.

- **Differentiation:** Lessons are adapted to meet the needs of pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN), including visual, auditory, and kinaesthetic approaches.
- **Assistive Technology:** Use of text-to-speech tools and other aids for pupils with additional needs.
- **Inclusive Resources:** Decodable texts reflect diverse cultures and experiences.
- **Tailored Support:** Pupils with Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs) receive bespoke interventions aligned with their learning goals.

Professional Development

1. **Initial Training:** Comprehensive Twinkl Phonics training for all staff, including new hires.
2. **Ongoing CPD:** Regular refresher courses and workshops on phonics teaching and assessment strategies.
3. **Lesson Observations:** Termly observations with feedback to maintain consistency and fidelity in phonics delivery.

Resources

To deliver effective phonics teaching, we use:

- Twinkl's comprehensive phonics toolkit, including flashcards, wall displays, and interactive whiteboard resources.
- Decodable books aligned with the Twinkl Phonics progression.
- Multi-sensory materials, such as magnetic letters and phoneme frames.
- Digital tools, including Twinkl's interactive phonics games.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The phonics lead is responsible for:

- Monitoring the quality of phonics teaching through lesson observations, planning scrutiny, and data analysis.
- Reviewing assessment outcomes to identify trends and areas for improvement.
- Reporting progress to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and governors.
- Updating the phonics policy annually to reflect best practices and statutory requirements.

Outcomes

Our phonics programme aims to ensure that:

- Pupils leave KS1 with a secure foundation in phonics and fluency in reading.
- Pupils develop a love for reading and the confidence to explore diverse texts.
- The school maintains high success rates in the phonics screening check.

Conclusion

The Eden School is committed to excellence in phonics education. Through the Twinkl Phonics Programme, we provide a structured, engaging, and inclusive approach that equips every child with the skills to thrive as readers and writers.