



## Willow Farm Primary School

# Policy

Phonics

Date of next review: Summer 2022

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Wendy Syalon

Nominated staff member responsible for policy: \_\_\_\_\_

**At Willow Farm Primary School we believe that for all our children to become fluent readers and writers, phonics must be taught through a systematic and structured phonics programme.**

We use the **Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised** to plan and provide daily engaging phonics lessons. In phonics, we teach children that the letters of the alphabet represent a different sound, that these can be used in a variety of combinations and are put together to make words. The children learn to recognise all of the different sounds and combinations that they might see when they are reading or writing. Our phonics teaching starts in Reception and follows a very specific sequence that allows our children to build on their previous phonic knowledge and master specific phonic strategies as they move through school. As a result, all our children are able to tackle any unfamiliar words that they might discover. At Willow farm we also model these strategies in shared reading and writing both inside and outside of the phonics lesson and across the curriculum. We have a strong focus on the development of language skills for our children because we know that speaking and listening are crucial skills for reading and writing in all subjects.

### **How we teach phonics**

- In reception and Y1, children follow the progression within Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised programme. Phonics is taught daily and there is a review session on a Friday.
- Phonics starts in reception in week 2 to ensure the children make a strong start.
- By the end of reception, children will have been taught up to the end of phase 4.
- By the end of year 1, children will have been taught up to the end of phase 5.
- Reception lessons start at 10 minutes, with daily additional oral blending – increasing to 30 minutes as soon as possible.
- Y1 lessons are 30 minutes long.
- In Y2-Y3, phonic lessons are taught daily to children where appropriate – following the model of Little Wandle but plugging specific gaps identified through assessment.
- In Y2-Y6 there are planned phonic ‘catch-up’ sessions following a set model to address specific reading/writing gaps. These are short, sharp sessions lasting 10 minutes in length.

### **Reading practice sessions**

- Children across reception and year 1 (and beyond if appropriate) apply their phonics knowledge by using a full matched decodable reader in a group reading practice sessions.
- In Reception these sessions are 15 minutes long and happen three times a week. There are approximately 6 children in a group. In year 1 these sessions are 15

minutes long and happen five times a week in a whole class group. In year 2 these reading sessions run three times a week in a whole class group with books that are not fully decodable but introduce children to text that is vocabulary rich and exposes them to more challenging texts. However, children in year 2 that have phonics missing will have keep up sessions where they will be using fully decodable books in their reading group.

- The sessions follow the model set out in Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised.
- The children then take the same book home the following week to ensure success is shared with the family.
- In reception these sessions start in week 4. Children who are not decoding, do a little blending lesson, following the model set out in Little Wandle Letters and Sound Revised.

### **How do we assess phonic knowledge?**

- In reception and year 1, at the end of each week there is a review session which recaps the learning. There are also whole review weeks (pre-planned and bespoke review weeks to address gaps identified by the class teacher's ongoing formative assessment).
- Children identified in reception and Y1 as in danger of falling behind are immediately identified and daily 'keep up' sessions are put in place – sessions follow the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised programme.
- In reception and year 1, the children are assessed at the end of every half term using the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised assessment tracker.
- The children in Y1 sit the Phonics Screening Check in the summer term.
- Children who do not pass the Phonics Screening Check in Y1, will re-sit this in Y2.
- Children who are in Y2-Y6 and need 'catch up' sessions are assessed through teacher's ongoing formative assessment as well as half termly summative assessments.