

St. Ethelbert's Catholic Primary School

Spelling and Phonics Policy



"I serve Jesus with my body, heart, mind and soul."

Serviam means 'I serve'. Jesus Christ has taught us, 'it is more blessed to serve than to be served'. At St Ethelbert's school, following our Catholic faith, we serve the whole person

– mind, heart, body and soul.

Body – because we care for our wellbeing, our parish neighbourhood and our environment.

Heart – because we teach love and respect for all.

Mind – because we believe in excellent education.

Soul – because we learn to pray and become closer to God as his children.

Aim: That all pupils develop a good knowledge of the sound/spelling system which they can apply to reading and writing.

Objectives:

To ensure that:

1. All pupils have sound knowledge of the alphabetic code;
2. All pupils can identify sounds in spoken words (phonological awareness);
3. All pupils can recognise the common spellings for each phoneme (phoneme-grapheme correspondence);
4. All pupils can blend phonemes into words for reading;
5. All pupils can segment words into phonemes for spelling.

Approach to Phonics Teaching

At St Ethelbert's we use *Sounds~Write*, as our linguistic phonic programme, followed by the NLS Spelling Bank.

In Reception, pupils' awareness and discrimination of sounds is developed initially. As soon as pupils are ready the **Initial Code** is introduced. This teaching may be presented as whole class or small groups. Phonics are taught everyday to all pupils. We would expect the average pupil in Reception to be working at Unit 6/7 by the end of the year. In Year One, the average pupil would be expected to be working at Unit 11, in the **Initial Code** by the end of the year.

In Year Two, the average pupils would work within the **Extended Code**, in conjunction with the **Polysyllabic Words**.

Those pupils who have not completed the programme and are still in need of the intensive *Sounds~Write* curriculum, by the time they join Year Three, will continue to be taught in small ability groups, until they have completed the programme.

Approach to the Teaching of Spelling

Once the pupils have a firm grasp of phonics and are applying these skills in their reading and writing, they will progress to the NLS Spelling Bank book as the main teaching programme for the school. This will be complemented by the **Polysyllabic Words** section of *Sounds~Write* as and when needed.

A discrete spelling lesson takes place every week, in every class, as part of the Literacy Hour.

Spelling rules and their exceptions are taught with follow-up homework or class investigations.

Every child has a spelling journal which will be shared with parents and will contain words to be used for testing.

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All classes will have the upper and lower case letters of the alphabet displayed in cursive writing; this will help to reinforce handwriting throughout the school.

All writing scribed by Class Teacher or Teaching Assistant should be in the cursive script.

Literacy Leader
To be reviewed October 2017