

Tyldesley School

Reading and Phonics' Strategy: 2025 – 2026

INTENT

Tyldesley School's intention for reading is to create a holistic approach to reading across the curriculum, to create an environment where students develop their curiosity of the world around them; whilst fostering a love of reading which will stay with them throughout their lives. We will support early readers to improve their phonics understanding and encourage students to read for pleasure, to foster more confidence in their reading ability and fluency and improve literacy in all subject areas. We recognise that literacy skills are both general and subject specific, so have implemented a strategy which will encourage wider reading around all of the subjects we teach and boost literacy across the curriculum.

We intend to create a whole school approach to Reading in a language rich environment. This then enables all learners to read books, which are appropriate for their age and ensure that early year's readers are supported to close any gaps in phonetic knowledge.

IMPLEMENTATION

At Tyldesley School all learners will be initially assessed on entrance to gauge an understanding of a young person's reading age, this will be ascertained through the GL Assessments and will be used as a standard baselining tool.

All learners, with their assessment results of age 9 years or below, are then additionally given a further Phonics assessment to complete. From this all low-level readers will be supported through 'Phonics' Interventions on a 1:1 basis. The timing of the interventions is based on a holistic approach of the learners needs. The main reading programme that will be followed at Tyldesley School is FRESH START by Ruth Miskin. Progress will be monitored throughout this programme supporting early readers to become more confident and fluent readers.

Read, Write, Inc - Fresh Start (Ruth Miskin)

Read Write Inc. Fresh Start is a catch-up and intervention programme with proven results, for 9 to 13-year-olds still learning to read. It offers a simple but powerful solution to accelerate reading progress.

This programme was developed by Ruth Miskin, Fresh Start teaches students at their challenge point, so they learn to read accurately and fluently. They will also develop good comprehension, spelling and punctuation skills through targeted activities.

Resources are age-appropriate, matched to students' increasing knowledge of phonics, and finely levelled to accelerate progress.

Fresh Start is a systematic synthetic phonics programme for struggling readers in secondary schools, it is for students who:



- did not meet national expectations at the end of Key Stage 2
- have missed schooling or are late arrivals into school
- are new to the UK education system
- are learning English as an additional language.
- Fresh Start accelerates students' reading accuracy, fluency and stamina in just 30 minutes a day. Students make as much as two years' progress in only two months. Quick diagnostic assessment ensures you start students at their highest point on the programme for speedy progress, whether this is for accurate decoding or for reading fluency – or both.
- Daily phonics lessons are at each student's 'challenge point'. Students' progress quickly because they learn and review letter-sounds and words at their level.
- New motivating age-appropriate Modules reflect students' everyday experiences and backgrounds. Older readers enjoy applying their new phonic knowledge to engaging matched decodable stories and non-fiction texts.

All learners will have access to texts to support and encourage reading for pleasure both within school and at home, but teachers will ensure books are mapped to the learners current reading ability and interests, for example in PE lessons books are provided for learners based on sports' celebrities' autobiographies, in RSE books on culture and relationships and humanities provides books on geography, cultures and history.

The National Literacy Trust states that "If we want to be skilful in helping other people, especially children, become willing, avid, and – most important of all – thoughtful readers, we need to know how to create a reading environment that enables them." Many learners arrive at school with low reading levels and as a school we will ensure we understand individual gaps and support learners to embark on their journey in bringing reading alive. In Tyldesley School we have a designated room for the learners to sit and read in a peaceful and calm and comfy environment.

The Department for Education in The Reading Framework states that "The Simple View of Reading has been described as the product of decoding and comprehension, a model first proposed by Gough and Tunmer in 1986, who called it the Simple View of Reading. It has been fundamental in changing the debate about the teaching of reading over at least the last 20 years. It is frequently shown as a diagram (Figure 1), consisting of two axis and four quadrants: a horizontal axis for word reading (decoding) processes and a vertical axis for language comprehension processes."

The national curriculum programmes of study for reading reflect the model, presented as two dimensions: 'word reading' and 'comprehension'. At Tyldesley School low level reading support will be through the use of **the Read Write Inc. Fresh Start programme by Ruth Miskin** and guided reading will be supported through the carefully mapping of all reading books



including national curriculum (GCSE) text to enable whole school access for all learners regardless of learner ability and level.

Figure 1 -



We have drawn heavily from the recommendations of the Education Endowment Foundation recommendations in their “Improving Literacy in Secondary Schools” document, first published 6th July 2018 ([Improving Literacy in Secondary Schools | EEF](https://www.educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk) ([educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk](https://www.educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)))

1. Prioritise “disciplinary literacy” across the curriculum

Disciplinary literacy is an approach to improving literacy across the curriculum. It recognises that literacy skills are both general and subject specific, emphasising the value of supporting teachers in every subject to teach students how to read, write and communicate effectively in their subjects.

Key words specific to each subject are displayed in every classroom to ensure maximum exposure to the vocabulary conventions of each subject.

Reading Plus

Reading for Pleasure is encouraged during school time and outside of school through Tyldesley School’s subscription to Bedrock Learning, which places students at their correct reading levels and based on assessment data.

Bedrock Learning allows students to log in when the students are away from school. This enables us to work closely with parents and carers to support students’ reading skills. Once assessed, the Bedrock Learning programme allows students to access the appropriate learning block for their reading age and stage. Throughout the Bedrock Learning programme, students’ knowledge is tested and recapped through the comprehensions.

Bedrock Learning provides an extensive library of engaging informational and literacy selections that support instructional objectives through student-centered learning.



Books for group reading are selected based on National Curriculum, current affairs or personal growth and development, books are also differentiated to support all reading levels and abilities. Teachers will support learners to access books at their level.

Current affairs books and texts support learners to widen their knowledge and interest in events of political or social interest and importance happening in the world at the present time.

Personal growth and development books support learners in the development of new skills, attitudes, actions, or reactions that can have a positive impact on their life and increase overall well-being; these books and texts within this genre may also support learners to process previous trauma in a positive way or creates a safe space where they can open up and reflect on their own experiences; in the context of the characters of the book rather than themselves.

All books are vetted through school and in conjunction with the Senior Leadership team.

Readers are provided with individual tailored support for their needs, for example: coloured paper and overlays, enlarged and modified texts to support their reading and writing.

Reader Star of the week is also encouraged and incentivised to support individual reading, reading for pleasure and reading at home.

2. Provide targeted vocabulary instruction in every subject

All lessons focus on key words for the lesson taught. Staff encourage students to think about unfamiliar words and what they look like so that they might be able to decode the meaning of them. Subject specific knowledge organisers are also used in a range of subjects to support the learning of unfamiliar vocabulary.

Staff look for opportunities, wherever possible, within the lesson and teaching to highlight word etymology and morphology to help students remember the meanings of new words and to make connections with the words they already know e.g. in science, the prefix photo- means light therefore photosynthesis is concerned with light.

3. Develop students' ability to read complex academic texts

Across the curriculum, students are given the opportunity to read complex texts relevant to the subject they are studying, either as a reading comprehension or analysis. For example, in maths, we use extended written questions where students need to read and pick out key pieces of information in order to answer the question.

4. Break down complex writing tasks

Where students are expected to create extended pieces of writing, teachers use a combination of planning, monitoring, evaluation and modelling to support students to structure their text appropriately and to a high academic standard. We also provide



targeted support for those who need it through the use of (templates)scaffolded structures, acronyms, sentence starters and keyword mats as appropriate.

5. Combine writing instruction with reading in every subject

Aims and objectives are given at the start of each lesson to support learners with written instruction that all students can follow, and also supports students who may struggle with verbal instructions in the classroom, acting as a prompt. We encourage students to recognise key features and conventions of good writing within each subject through the use of model answers and structural analysis. SPaG is marked in every subject across the school, with opportunities for students to correct and improve during lesson time.

6. Provide opportunities for structured talk

Students at our school can be reluctant writers so our verbal discussions form an integral part of our learning journeys which we then use as a platform to stimulate written work. Staff encourage high quality talk through excellent questioning techniques, by modelling examples of high-quality talk and by encouraging students to use key words from lessons in their responses in order to ensure that discussions are including high level vocabulary.

7. Provide high-quality literacy interventions for struggling students

All students receive targeted literacy intervention appropriate to their level and their needs This is in addition to the SPaG marking across all subjects, dedicated reading time and emphasis on academic reading texts across all subject areas. Our literacy interventions are based upon the Reading Framework published by DfE July 2021.

Learners with SEN or disabilities will be assessed termly and staff will provide support, whilst reviewing and evaluating the support so that it can be adjusted where necessary ([The reading framework - teaching the foundations of literacy \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/98222/reading-framework-teaching-the-foundations-of-literacy.pdf))

IMPACT

Through the implementation of our Reading Strategy, we aim to foster a love of reading in all of our students. Reading confidence will allow students to access a range of texts across a broad variety of genres, able to tackle written material in school, to build transferable employability skills and enable them to have literacy skills for life.



QUESTIONS FOR EACH SUBJECT LEAD TO CONSIDER

1. What is unique about your subject discipline in terms of reading, writing, speaking and listening? What is common with other subject disciplines?
2. How do members of the subject discipline use language on a daily basis?
3. Are there any literacy misconceptions held by students, for example, how to write an effective science report?
4. Are there words and phrases used typically, or uniquely, in the subject discipline?
5. How can we ensure that vocabulary instruction is effectively integrated into classroom teaching?
6. How can we move beyond static word lists to support students to develop a deeper understanding of the meaning and applications of words?
7. How can we ensure that subject specific vocabulary becomes memorable and that students can use new words in writing and talk?
8. How can we best teach students to read academic texts?
9. Which reading strategies improve the accessibility of subject specific texts and genres?
10. How can we support students to become effective independent learners?
11. How do we break down complex reading tasks?
12. How can we support students to become independent writers?
13. How can we motivate students to persist with challenging writing tasks?

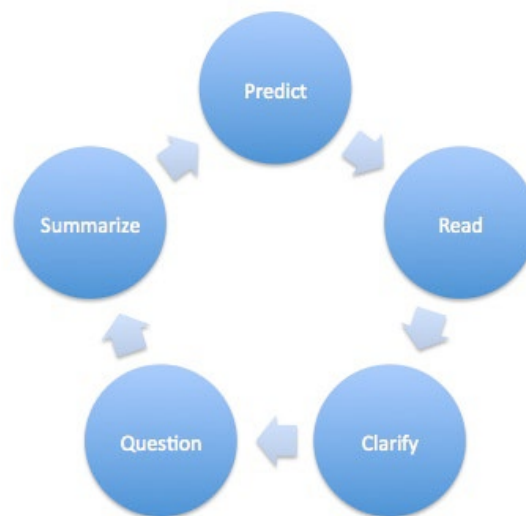


14. Where should writing tasks sit within lessons and lesson sequences?
15. How can we integrate reading and writing tasks in different subject areas?
16. How can we support students to improve their spelling, punctuation and grammar?
17. Is it right to view talk as a luxury?
18. How can we structure speaking and listening activities to support learning?
19. Where should discussion activities sit within lessons and lesson sequences?
20. What types of interventions are most likely to have an impact?
21. Who should provide targeted support?
22. How will the impact of the intervention be monitored?

ACTIONS

- Evaluate the quality and complexity of existing reading materials in the school
- Ensure that the development of disciplinary literacy is coherently aligned with curriculum development
- Identify 15 – 20 words of academic vocabulary needed for each topic and SoW, teach these explicitly.
- Find tasks in which you can use the Reciprocal Reading Approach to aid students with reading academic texts:

The Reciprocal Teaching Cycle



- For extended writing opportunities, break down writing tasks by providing word level, sentence level and whole text level instruction; explicitly teach students planning strategies; help students monitor and review their writing.
- Look in your SoW to find opportunities for structured talk and make explicit either on task cards or in SoW.
- Word of the Week
- Use of board games
- Write intervention programme for all students