



KS3 PHONIC AWARENESS CURRICULUM INTENT

At Northumberland PRU, we recognise that many of our pupils arrive with gaps in their reading, spelling and decoding skills, which can significantly impact their confidence, engagement and access to the wider curriculum. Our Phonic Awareness curriculum provides targeted intervention for Key Stage 3 pupils who require additional support in developing the fundamental skills needed to become fluent, confident readers.

Our curriculum is based upon Abigail Steel's KS3 Phonics Student Workbook 2, providing a structured and systematic approach to teaching phonics that is appropriate for older learners. Through explicit teaching, repeated practice and regular opportunities to apply new learning, pupils develop secure decoding skills, improve reading fluency and increase spelling accuracy.

The curriculum forms an integral part of our whole-school literacy strategy and complements our wider reading initiatives, including Rise to Read, Reading Skills, vocabulary development and guided reading. By strengthening pupils' ability to decode unfamiliar words accurately and automatically, we enable them to access learning more confidently across every curriculum subject.

Teaching is carefully sequenced to revisit previously taught knowledge through regular retrieval practice while introducing new phonics patterns in manageable steps. Lessons provide frequent opportunities for pupils to read aloud, practise spelling, complete dictation activities and apply their developing knowledge within meaningful reading and writing tasks. Assessment is used throughout the programme to identify misconceptions, inform teaching and celebrate progress.

Recognising the diverse needs of our learners, the curriculum is delivered within a supportive and nurturing environment where success is built through repetition, encouragement and achievable challenge. Pupils are encouraged to develop resilience, independence and self-confidence as they experience success in reading.

THROUGH OUR PHONIC AWARENESS CURRICULUM, WE AIM TO DEVELOP PUPILS WHO:



Read with increasing fluency, confidence and accuracy.



Apply phonics knowledge to decode unfamiliar words independently.



Improve spelling through secure understanding of phoneme-grapheme relationships.



Develop a wider vocabulary to support reading and communication.



Gain the literacy skills required to access the wider curriculum successfully.



Build confidence and independence as lifelong readers and learners.



Ultimately, our Phonic Awareness curriculum ensures that pupils develop the essential reading foundations needed to participate fully in education, make sustained progress across all subjects and prepare successfully for further education, employment and adult life.