

Phonics Schemes

Discovery Special Academy have developed a phonics progression programme that is used throughout the academy. Phase one of the programme uses a multi-sensory approach to teach children how to recognise sounds in their environment including the sounds their own voice can make. These are essential pre reading skills. Once embedded, children will be able to retrieve this learning to support them with the structured synthetic phonics approach (Read Write Inc.) in phase two.

From phase two onwards, children follow the 'Read, Write Inc.' synthetic phonics scheme (link below) to develop their phonic skills of blending and segmenting at their own pace. A range of resources complements this approach.

The Discovery phonics programme aims to build children's speaking and listening skills in their own right as well as preparing children for learning to read by developing their phonic knowledge and skills. It sets out a detailed and systematic programme for teaching phonic skills for children, with the aim of them developing early reading skills and working towards becoming fluent readers.

To support children in reading words, all sounds within the phases are taught in a specific order and separated into sets. Each set contains some sounds with two or three letters representing one sound (digraphs and trigraphs). When teaching the children, we call these sounds 'special friends' and children learn that together these letters produce one sound, for example **sh, th, ng, nk** (in Set 1).

During all phases, children read texts to suit the sounds and words they are learning. All books are read twice in school before being sent home to share. This supports parents when sharing a book at home and children have the opportunity to 'show off' their reading skills in a different setting, encouraging them to become confident, fluent readers. Children progress through reading books at their own pace ensuring they have learnt previous sounds and words before moving on. This gives children the opportunity to retrieve embedded prior phonics knowledge as well as make connections with new learning so that reading becomes easier and enjoyable for them.

Phase	Phonic Knowledge and Skills
<i>Phase One</i>	<p>Phase One phonics at Discovery includes six areas of learning (steps);</p> <p>Step 1: Sounds in my environment Step 2: Sounds of instruments Step 3: Using my body to make sounds Step 4: Nursery rhymes and rhythm Step 5: Initial sounds Step 6: Making sounds with my voice Step 7: Oral blending and segmenting</p> <p>A Phase One assessment determines if children are ready to move onto Phase two of the Discovery phonics programme.</p>

<p><i>Phase Two</i></p>	<p>In Phase Two, children learn the corresponding sounds for the letters of the alphabet and how to blend these sounds together. This helps children to read words. Children also learn how to segment words into their separate sounds. This skill helps children to read and spell words.</p> <p>Set 1 sounds are taught in this order: m a s d t i n p g o c k u b f e l h s h r j v y w t h z c h q u x n g n k.</p> <p>Words in this phase include three and four sounds, some with letters representing more than one sound, for example, 'bell', 'fluff' and 'bucket'.</p> <p>Children read Sound Blending books 1-10 and Red 'ditty books' with corresponding story books.</p>
<p><i>Phase Three</i></p>	<p>In Phase Three, children are taught the following sounds whilst still practising previously taught sounds and words.</p> <p>Set 2: ay ee igh ow oo oo ar or air ir ou oy.</p> <p>During this phase, children are taught letter names through singing songs and using alphabet cards. This is done in isolation so children do not become confused with the sounds used in their phonics lesson.</p> <p>Children read Green, purple and pink story books. Non-fiction texts also complement each colour band.</p>
<p><i>Phase Four</i></p>	<p>Children are taught the following sounds whilst still practising previously taught sounds and words.</p> <p>Set 3: ea oi a-e i-e o-e u-e aw are ur er ow ai oa ew ire ear ure tion tious/cious</p> <p>Children read orange, yellow, blue and grey story books.</p>

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