

The Big picture (Overview)

At St. Finbar's Catholic Primary School we want to provide every child with the knowledge and skills to be confident and passionate readers and writers.

We deliver our daily phonics through the Monster Phonics scheme. Starting from Nursery and progressing throughout the school. This provides our children with the skills to decode more complex words.

It is important to us to deliver a consistent and rigorous approach to phonics and spelling, we believe that this is the key to successful early readers.

What are Phonics and Spelling like in our school

(pupil voice)

"The monsters help me know what I'm learning, Angry Red A is the best one! (Y1 pupil)

"Monster Phonics is fun to help me spell tricky words, Tricky Witch tries to trick me...she can't because I'm good at reading." (Y2 pupil)

"I like the monsters, they help me to read when the words are a bit hard." (KS2 pupil)

"My teacher gives us spelling rules, it helps me when I'm writing." (KS2 pupil)

Teaching and Learning (Key learning and skills)

Children will learn to:

- Develop speaking and listening skills.
- Be able to orally blend and segment words for reading.
- Recognise the sound (phoneme) that each individual letter makes.
- Recognise the sound (phoneme) that each groups of letters make. (digraph, trigraph)
- To apply phonic knowledge across subjects for reading and writing.
- Build upon their knowledge, using a progressive curriculum to learn English spelling rules.
- Recognise homophones & near homophones.
- Use suffixes and prefixes of increasing challenge.
- Know statutory spelling challenge words.

What we want our curriculum to help our children know and do (Intent)

We want St Finbar's pupils to become confident and successful readers, spellers and writers from a very early stage in their school life.

This is why we have chosen Monster Phonics for our school as it is an engaging, structured, synthetic phonics programme that supports learning by using monsters to group graphemes. This enables children to recall and apply their phonetical knowledge across all curriculum.

As the children move through school we follow a structured and progressive spelling curriculum that is in line with the National Curriculum.

How we organise our curriculum (Implement)

Monster Phonics matches the Nursery and Reception EYFS framework and Phase 2 Spelling Curriculum. It progresses from simple to more complex phonic knowledge and skills, building on prior knowledge.

We deliver whole-class Systematic Synthetic Phonics for children in Phase 1 and 2, as well as provide catch up sessions for our pupils in Phase 3. Daily, children take part in 20 –30-minute discrete phonics sessions. We follow a five-part lesson structure ensuring children are given the opportunity to review, learn, apply and consolidate the days learning.

In Phase 1, Early Years, children are given fun and interactive opportunities throughout the day to consolidate their learning through play.

In KS2 children have weekly spelling lists that are introduced and taught within class. The curriculum is mapped out so children are learning a spelling rule per week. This is progressive and built upon over the years and is a continuation of what they already know.

How we know children are knowing and doing more (Impact)

We have enthusiastic and confident learners who will apply their phonological skills, spelling rules and knowledge across all areas of learning. The children are engaged learners who show a love for reading and writing, as well as resilience when faced with challenges or new concepts.

We monitor the impact through a structured assessment framework that is built into the Monster Phonics scheme. Baseline and formative assessment allows us to periodically assess children's progress and attainment, as well as daily formative assessment that is built into the lesson structure.

We monitor the day to day impact through regular triangulation method: lesson observations, learning walks and book scrutinise This ensures children have high quality learning across their school life.