



**Mission statement**  
***We live, love and learn together joyfully in Jesus' name***

**Phonics & Reading Statement**

At St. Jude's Catholic Primary School, we believe reading unlocks all learning therefore we are dedicated to ensuring all our children have access to a high-quality Reading provision which in turn develops children's love of reading.

| Intent                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Implementation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Impact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| <p>At St Jude's, we believe that reading is the fundamental key that unlocks the whole curriculum and empowers children to become lifelong learners.</p> <p>Our primary intent is to foster a deep, enduring love for reading in every child from the moment they enter our through to age 11.</p> <p>We aim to cultivate fluent, confident, and critical readers who do not just read because they have to, but because they want to.</p> <p>By exposing our pupils to a rich, diverse, and challenging literary diet, we aim to expand their vocabulary, deepen their comprehension, and ignite their imaginations.</p> <p>We are committed to ensuring that every child, regardless of their starting point, leaves our school with the literacy skills required to succeed in secondary education and thrive in the wider world.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Children in EYFS and Year 1 are taught early reading and phonics through the accredited program 'Rocket Phonics'.</li><li>Phonics and reading sessions are delivered daily in EYFS and Key Stage 1 for at least 30 minutes. The Teaching &amp; Learning Cycle (revisit and review, teach, practise, apply) is followed.</li><li>Pupils learn new phonemes, improve their ability to segment and blend sounds, and their ability to apply this knowledge into their reading and writing.</li><li>All reading books are matched carefully to the children's phonic level. Books should not be a challenge for children, instead they should offer the opportunity to practise the phonics they have been taught and to develop fluency.</li><li>Common exception words will be taught explicitly within the phonics lessons.</li><li>Children are assessed every few weeks, those children who are not on track to meet age-related expectations will be provided with intervention in the form of either small group work or daily 1 to 1 support.</li></ul> | <p>High Attainment Standards: Pupil achievement in the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check and Key Stage 2 Reading SATs is at usually at national averages, with a significant proportion of pupils achieving a greater depth standard by the time they leave St. Jude's.</p> <p>Narrowing the Gap: Quality first teaching and targeted interventions Keep-Up ensure that disadvantaged groups, including SEND and Pupil Premium pupils, make accelerated progress to close attainment gaps.</p> <p>Fluent Decoders: By completion of the phonics programme, children decode words automatically and fluidly, allowing them to focus fully on comprehension rather than mechanical blending.</p> <p>Critical Thinkers: Pupils across Key Stage 2 demonstrate advanced comprehension skills, successfully predicting, inferring, clarifying, and summarising complex texts during daily Whole-Class Reading sessions.</p> <p>Discursive Learners: Children confidently participate in high-quality book talk, justifying their opinions about characters, themes, and author choices using evidence from the text.</p> <p>Enthusiastic Readers: Pupil voice interviews and surveys demonstrate that children have a genuine love</p> |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Year Two, children continue to read within a guided group and will complete small-group comprehension to develop their deduction and inference skills.</li> <li>• Whilst in KS2, the children continue to develop their reading ability within a weekly guided reading session and will complete independent comprehension to develop their deduction and inference skills.</li> <li>• Those children in KS2 who have not reached aged-related expectations in phonics complete intervention programs tailored to specific need.</li> <li>• Our reading scheme is Big Cat, which is fully decodable. While Rocket Phonics drives foundational decoding mechanics, the broader Collins Big Cat scheme (spanning over 1,500 fiction and non-fiction titles) takes over as children transition from learning-to-read to reading-to-learn, supporting independent fluency and a lifelong love of reading.</li> <li>• We use Big Cat progression texts for high-interest lower ability readers.</li> <li>• Children will be encouraged to use the school library after lunch, a member of staff will be present in the library to advise the children on their choice of book.</li> <li>• Each day there will be a designated reading time, this is either in the form of the teacher reading to the class or the children reading their pleasure for reading book.</li> <li>• Each classroom has a reading area that contains a range of books including non-</li> </ul> | <p>for literature and speak with enthusiasm about their favourite authors and genres.</p> <p>Vocabulary Acquisition: Explicit teaching of tier 2 and tier 3 vocabulary empowers children to confidently use advanced language in their independent writing and verbal discussions.</p> |
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fiction, fiction and poetry. Use of these texts is encouraged as often as possible.

- There is a dedicated school library which is made available to the children daily.