

Madeley Nursery School

Developing Literacy

(Policy Statement)

'At Madeley Nursery School we believe all children are competent, with an innate desire to learn. Children have this innate desire to use and decode symbols and communicate together and thus, we intentionally plan, prepare and create contexts to support the development of literacy in meaningful ways.'

(Rubizzi & Bonilairi., 2012)



'As teachers of literacy and readers ourselves, we have developed a coherent philosophy towards literacy, involving substantial attention to meaning and the demonstration that language and literacy are interesting, pleasurable and purposeful.'

(Cremin et al., 2014)

Language and communication are fundamental aspects of what it means to be human. The society in which we live is surrounded by codes and symbols of communication. Young children grow and develop within these contexts and have innate desires to respond to and be part of this world of communication. Codes and symbols are used as a means of communication and form an essential part of the shared communication of literacy.



We believe that we must respond to this innate drive to use literacy as a form of communication and to offer a rich curricular environment where skills of reading and writing are practiced within meaningful contexts that motivate and engage children. It is essential for young children that the direct teaching of skills and knowledge including early phonics and letter formation occurs within relevant contexts in a strong and engaging environment. At Madeley Nursery School it is within our educational philosophy based on the values of encounter, enquiry, collaboration and expression, expressed in the school statements of:

A place of citizenship – being part of a strong community

Our school is an integral part of the community. It is a place where every child, family and educator has both a right and responsibility to contribute to and support their community. *We define community as being both immediately located around the school and stretching out to include the global community. We believe that citizenship encompasses people and cultures as well as environments and ecologies. That as citizens, children should be creators of culture not passive consumers.*

The researching School – working together to question and improve

Working together to question and improve, our school is a place where children, families and educators work together to improve the quality of learning and teaching experiences, therefore promoting high aspirations, levels of well-being, good dispositions and achievement for all. *We believe that a researching school relies on developing a 'listening pedagogy', where all protagonists collaborate and co-operate in reflective dialogue, respecting and encouraging different opinions and ideas, being open to change and innovation.*

A belief in the competent child – with an innate ability to learn from birth

All children have an innate ability to learn from birth. We believe that every child has an incredible capacity to learn and develop through engagement with others and with the world. *This principle has inclusion and diversity at its heart and is made visible through the pedagogical approaches of the school. Where learning is seen as crossing the borders that separately define disciplines, curriculum and concepts.*

Partnership between children, families and school – learning in partnership

We consider that a genuine, respectful and active partnership between children, their families and the school are central to successful learning. *This principle is interrelated and underpins the other school principles and reflects our relational and community ethos. Partnership involves parents, families and staff working together to benefit children in relationships where each recognises, respects and values what the other does and says. Partnership involves responsibility on both sides.*

Literacy is designated as a "specific area" of learning as part of the statutory curriculum provision for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2021) and we support the view that literacy skills and knowledge are essential in enabling children to participate successfully in society.

Working in partnership with parents, we hope to set children on a journey of literacy development as they explore many of the concepts, ideas and theories through everyday meaningful experiences. We aspire for this to support a life-long interest in literacy which will play a key role in their daily life, further education and employment.

CURRICULUM CONTEXT:

During the first stages in this process we aim, through planned activities and spontaneous play, to stimulate children's interest in literacy and build their knowledge so that they are prepared for the fresh challenges and opportunities found in their next level of education.



Spoken language is the first and most important resource that young readers and writers have. Children need to have a wide experience of stories, poetry and non-fiction material, grounding and enriching their knowledge of written language and how this works as a means of communication.

We acknowledge that all children come to school with a range of experience of literacy, including digital and media text, much of it framed by popular culture.

We believe that strong two-way links with home really supports all literacy learning; reading is particularly sensitive to parental support and role modelling.

The 'basics' of literacy learning involve an awareness of what it is to be literate, and a familiarity with the language of books, as well as knowledge of the alphabet and the sound/symbol relations of the orthographic code.

Our approach to reading and writing is to balance and integrate technical concerns, e.g. the systematic teaching of early phonics, with attention also, to the making of meanings that are interesting to the child. This approach leads to more successful outcomes than those that focus on technical methods alone.

Whilst teaching in groups, we tailor our teaching to the needs of individual children, drawing on our understanding of the children's backgrounds and experiences, as well as close monitoring of their progress.

READING:

Children engage in early reading in contexts that are warm and enthusiastic about books and in other situations that for them, have meaning and purpose. We believe that the development of reading occurs when children are immersed in rich language and surrounded by a range of high quality, engaging texts, routines, intentional, designed activities and proposals, and arising opportunities that are relevant, meaningful, and motivating for children.

We share books with traditional stories and other well-loved picture books throughout the year. These are revisited in different print formats, through puppets, shadows, small world, art, music, and drama.

See the appended list of core traditional stories and picture books that we use each year and which are supplemented with other texts based on our evolving explorations and learning.

Positive reading dispositions and behaviours are promoted through our curriculum approach (see role of the educator and environment).

We teach phonetic skills and knowledge consistently and systematically however it is essential that this occurs in developmentally appropriate ways and at times that make sense to children, supporting their desire to explore, relate, understand, and connect. In this way it will be learning that is motivating and relevant to children.

Our chosen fully systematic, synthetic phonic scheme is Supersonic Phonic Friends (2021). This is a scheme validated by the DfE (2021). It begins with Firm Foundations in Phonics 1, offering playful daily repeated experience, exposure and enjoyment of General Sound Discrimination and Phonological Awareness. We support children's early auditory discrimination and early sound awareness through the planned group activities outlined in Firm Foundations in Phonics 1, detailed in the following seven aspects.

Firm Foundations in Phonics 1		The Strands
General Sound Discrimination		
Aspect 1	Environmental Sounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuning into sounds (auditory discrimination) • Listening and remembering sounds (auditory memory and sequencing) • Talking about sounds (developing vocabulary and language comprehension)
Aspect 2	Instrumental Sounds	
Aspect 3	Body Percussion	
Phonological Awareness		
Aspect 4	Rhythm and Rhyme	
Aspect 5	Alliteration	
Aspect 6	Voice Sounds	
Aspect 7	Oral Blending and Segmenting	

Additionally, we pave the way for reading and writing in contexts arising during children's enquiry, exploration, and play, making meaningful links to previous, direct teaching.

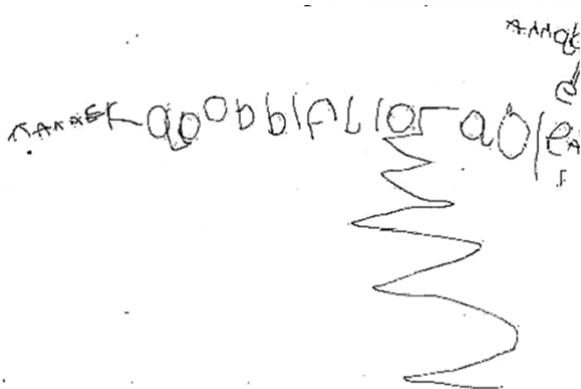


When developmentally ready children are introduced to individual letter sounds (phonemes) and their representation (graphemes) in the order identified in The Basics 2 and 3 (2021). At the same time, we introduce some 'tricky' or none-decodable words. This progression is outlined in the following identified Groups.

Securing The Basics 2 CVC		Tricky Words
Group 1	s a t p	N/A
Group 2	i n m d	I is
Group 3	g o c k	the to
Group 4	ck e u r	go no
Group 5	h b f l	has his as
Group 6	ll ff ss	of into

"In order for children to be ready for The Basics 2 and 3, they would need to demonstrate that they were able to tune into, listen to and remember and talk about sounds. They would need to be skilled in Rhythm and Rhyme, Alliteration and Oral Blending and Segmenting before they start to look at the shapes of the letters on flashcards and begin their systematic, synthetic phonics journey. Phonological awareness continues from The Basics to The Higher Levels of Phonics and into Spelling Rules and Patterns.

(Taken from Supersonic Phonic Friends Phonic Progression Simple to the Complex)



WRITING:

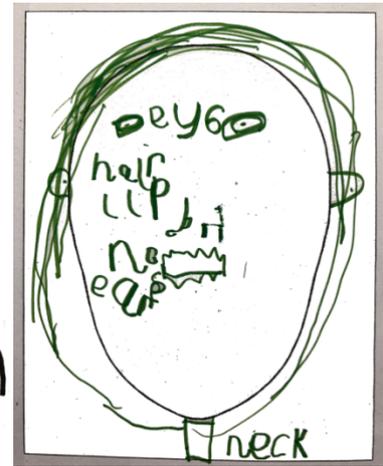
All children engage in early mark-making that for them has meaning and purpose. We believe that the development of writing occurs with a range of graphical representations in which one person communicates with another or defines ideas through symbolic marks. Children begin to develop their understanding of shared meaning and the difference between drawing and writing as they increase in accuracy and fluency with practice and sensitive teaching. Again, it is essential that this occurs in developmentally appropriate ways and at times that makes sense to children and supports their desire to explore, relate, understand, and connect.



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The awareness of what is developmentally appropriate varies between children and changes over time. The development of reading and writing also requires the development of communication and language, personal, social, emotional and physical skills.

Spoken language is the first and most important resource that young writers have. Children need to have a wide experience of rich conversation, of story, rhyme, the rhythm of language and time to play with and apply vocabulary. Knowledge of written language and particularly of how print works as a means of communication then follows. Young children can compose before they can transcribe. Initially children need the help and support of another person, usually an adult, to write conventionally. This gives the children space and opportunity to compose more freely and as transcription is modelled and the children gain the skills and independence to be able to transcribe, this support can be gradually withdrawn.

Progress and development will be multi-dimensional. Inexperienced writers will also need support with developing spelling skills – as a foundation for moving from the phonetic stage to gaining increasing control of standard spelling – and gaining better control of handwriting.

We focus on the development of both fine and gross motor physical competencies throughout nursery as this is essential to fluent handwriting later. Core strength, proximal stability in shoulders and pelvis and pincer grip are developed in all areas of nursery. A love of and purpose for writing is fostered through varied early mark-making opportunities.

We use the Supersonic Phonic Friends (2021) rhymes for letter formation.



Values, dispositions, and attitudes

Our approach to learning and teaching literacy will support the development of, and be supported by, the school's pedagogy that is based on these values:

Prosocial behaviours

Creativity and innovation

Self-regulation

Critical thinking

Collaboration

Confidence

Resilience and perseverance

Effective communication

The role of the educator

As children become more experienced writers, adults will need to use approaches which encourage children's independence as writers; developing awareness of audience and the needs of the reader. Children will increase their ability and stamina to manage extended texts. Adults should model and demonstrate how written language works as a means of communication.

The educator must always act as a role model for valuing and using literacy, speaking to children openly about why and how they read and write.

Educators must have good knowledge of literacy skills and their development including synthetic phonics, segmenting, blending, irregular words and steps into writing including letter formation.

The educator must make decisions based on observation, reflection and assessment about how and when to teach children knowledge and skills.

Educators must offer many opportunities within the environment and as part of the curriculum to learn, practice and use reading and writing; ensuring that these opportunities are motivating and engaging and support the children's desire to explore, relate, understand and connect.

Educators and in particular key-workers will work together with parents / carers to develop literacy at home and at school; together identifying effective ways to motivate children and supporting parents with accuracy in phonics and letter formation. Parents will be given resources and have the opportunity to attend information workshops, family learning courses and meetings with their child's keyworker as well as daily encounters and exchanges when children are brought to and collected from nursery.

B M O P M U O N I F O E M
D O N B P D M L M U M

The learning environment:

Children need to explore different ways and means of composing and publishing writing, including digital and multi-modal texts, related to purpose and audience.

Materials and Resources

Some materials and resources must be prepared in response to children's emerging interests and enquiries. Other materials and resources are available to be used at any time including:

- Lending library of fiction and non-fiction books
- Phonetically decodable books
- Grapheme cards
- Key word cards
- Simple games
- Cd / DVD's
- Online links
- Posters
- Writing materials including triangular shaft pencils and pens.
- Digital resources

We understand that a few children may well achieve the Literacy Early Learning Goals during their time in Nursery and familiarity with the National Curriculum informs our plan for their future learning

Transition from home into the nursery, from stage-to-stage within the Nursery, and then on to Primary school is carefully managed, with free exchange of information (including children's literacy development) at all transition points, to ensure that children's learning is as seamless as possible.

This policy statement covers the provision of Literacy teaching within all areas of Madeley Nursery School, to support our commitment to inclusion, equalities, and diversity. We engage families and communities to ensure our materials, resources and planned activities are accessible and respectful.

We encourage children to take appropriate risks in their learning; however adults are vigilant and ready to intervene to ensure children's safety. Health and Safety policies and risk assessments support us in maintaining a safe learning environment for our children.

Rubizzi L. and Bonilauri S. 2012 History, Ideas and Basic principles: An Interview with Loris Malaguzzi in Edwards, C. Ganini, L. and Formaan. G. (Eds) 2012. The Hundred Languages of Children 3rd Edition. Oxford PRAEGER

CLPE: Centre for Literacy in Primary Education Reading and Writing Scales ©The Centre for Literacy in Primary Education 2015-16

www.supersonicphonicfriends.co.uk

Status	DRAFT / FINAL
Agreed at:	Curriculum Committee
Effective from:	May 2022
To be reviewed by:	Curriculum Committee
Responsible person:	Louise Lowings and Victoria Waring

Traditional stories	Picture Books
Jack and the Beanstalk	The Very Hungry Caterpillar – Eric Carle
The Three Billy Goats	A Squash and a Squeeze – Julia Donaldson
Goldilocks and the Three Bears	Room on the Broom – Julia Donaldson
The Three Little Pigs	Mr. Magnolia – Quentin Blake
The Snow Queen	Dear Zoo – Rod Campbell
The Enormous Turnip	Where the Wild Things Are – Maurice Sendak
Little Red Riding Hood	Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you See? – Bill Martin Jr & Eric Carle
Hansel and Grettle	Peace at Last – Jill Murphy
Chicken Licken	The Tiger Who Came to tea – Judith Kerr
The Magic Porridge pot	Owl Babies – Martin Waddell & Patrick Benson
The Gingerbread Man	Shark in the Park – Nick Sharratt
The Little Red Hen	The Snowy Day – Jack Ezra Keats
Ananse stories	Elmer – David McKee
Rama and the Demon King – Diwali Story	The Something – Rebecca Cobb
The Great Race – Chinese New Year Story	Oi Frog – Kes Gray & Jim Field
The Nativity – Christmas Story	Handa's Surprise – Eileen Browne
	We're Going on a Bear Hunt – Michael Rosen
	So Much - Trish Cooke
	Baby Goes to Market – Atinuke
	Pattan's Pumpkin: An Indian Flood Story - Chitra Soundar
	What If – Samantha Berger
	Festival of Colours – Surishta Sehgal, Kabir Sehgal & Vashti Harrison
	Ruby's Chinese New Year – Vickie y Lee
	The Tin Forest - Helen Ward & Wayne Anderson
	Foggy, Foggy, Forest – Nick Sharratt
	The Extraordinary Gardener – Sam Boughton
	Eddie's Garden – Sarah Garland
	Colours – Shiley Hughes