

Fresh Start

Intent

At River View Primary School, we use Fresh Start to support older pupils who require additional intervention to develop their reading, spelling and literacy skills. We recognise that some children may continue to experience difficulties with phonics, decoding and reading fluency beyond Key Stage One and require a structured, age-appropriate programme to help them catch up with their peers.

Fresh Start provides a systematic and cumulative approach to the teaching of phonics, reading and spelling, enabling pupils to develop the skills required to become confident and independent readers. Through carefully sequenced teaching, we aim to close gaps in attainment, improve confidence and self-esteem, and ensure that pupils can access the wider curriculum successfully. The intervention supports pupils who may have literacy difficulties, dyslexia, speech and language difficulties or gaps in their learning resulting from interrupted educational experiences.

By developing secure decoding, fluency and comprehension skills, we seek to remove barriers to learning and enable pupils to participate fully in school life and prepare successfully for the next stage of their education.

Implementation

Fresh Start is delivered through structured, small-group or individual sessions led by trained staff. The programme follows a systematic phonics approach, teaching pupils to decode unfamiliar words, improve reading fluency and develop spelling accuracy. Lessons are carefully sequenced and build upon previously taught skills to ensure knowledge is secure and retained.

Assessment is used regularly to identify gaps in learning, monitor progress and inform future teaching. Activities are designed to be age-appropriate and engaging whilst providing the repetition and overlearning required to secure literacy skills.

Principle	Purpose	Examples in Practice	Expected Outcome
Systematic Phonics	Develop decoding skills	Explicit teaching of sounds and graphemes	Improved word reading accuracy

Reading Fluency	Increase reading speed and confidence	Repeated reading and partner reading	Improved fluency and automaticity
Spelling Development	Secure understanding of spelling patterns	Dictation and spelling activities	Improved spelling accuracy
Vocabulary Development	Increase understanding of language	Explicit vocabulary teaching	Improved comprehension
Cumulative Learning	Build upon previously taught skills	Regular review and practice	Secure retention and application of skills

Impact

Children will demonstrate improved decoding, reading fluency and spelling skills. Through regular participation in Fresh Start sessions, pupils will develop greater confidence when reading and writing and become more independent learners.

As literacy skills improve, children will demonstrate increased engagement within the wider curriculum, improved comprehension and greater success when accessing age-appropriate learning activities. Staff will observe increased confidence, improved attainment and greater willingness to participate in reading and writing tasks.

Progress will be monitored through ongoing assessment, reading outcomes and classroom performance, ensuring that intervention remains responsive to individual needs. Ultimately, pupils will develop the literacy skills required to access future learning opportunities and achieve positive educational outcomes.