



Phonics at Christ's College

At Christ's College we follow the Read Write Inc (RWI) programme to ensure we implement high-quality teaching, monitoring and assessment of phonics. Read Write Inc (RWI) is an effective systematic synthetic teaching programme (SSP) which gives all children a solid base and understanding that they are able to build upon as they progress through school. In April 2021, the DfE published a revised list of validated SSP programmes which included Read Write Inc.

Read Write Inc, clearly sets out which sounds to teach the children and when and provides children with books that match their reading level accurately. For all children still following the programme, these are the books that children take home with them to read with their parents/carers. This means that the children can develop their fluency and confidence quickly and can therefore build upon their comprehension skills as well.

Throughout Early Years and KSI, Read Write Inc is taught every day. At the beginning of the academic year, the children in Reception complete a baseline assessment which is administered by one member of staff to ensure that all assessments are completed consistently. Once these assessments have been completed, the school's phonics leader analyses each of the assessments using the guidance provided by RWI to put them into the correct group. These groups are based on the children's phonetic understanding not their age.

In KSI the children go straight into the groups that they were assessed at, at the end of the summer term in the previous academic year. This gives the children time to readjust to returning to school and refreshes their knowledge of phonics before they go through the same baseline process as the Reception children. This process happens within Week 2 of the Autumn term. Once all KSI have been assessed, the phonics leader repeats the process of regrouping.

Once the children are in the correct group, each RWI member of staff is able to deliver high quality teaching of phonics following the structure of the RWI program. Throughout each half term, the phonics leader, conducts regular lesson observations/drop ins in order to identify the school's areas of improvement and provide staff with the necessary coaching and support. At the end of each half term, the assessment process is repeated.

In addition to daily lessons, 20% of children who are identified as making the slowest progress are targeted for interventions, in order to ensure they are able to make the necessary progress to become fluent readers.

Christ's College is also supported by The English Hub, a DfE funded program that focuses on supporting schools to improve the teaching of phonics by providing a Literacy Specialist to come into school and work alongside the phonics leader. Together, the Literacy Specialist and phonics leader, analyse the school's current data, observe the teaching of phonics across school and create an individualised action plan, that highlights what the school's focus should be and how to improve the implementation of their chosen SSP. The Literacy Specialist comes once every half term. During each visit, the action plan is reviewed and updated accordingly.