English Curriculum: Reading

By the beginning of Year 3, pupils should be able to read books written at an age
appropriate interest level.

Children should be able to read accurately and at a speed that is sufficient for them to focus on understanding what they read rather than on decoding individual words.

Word Reading

Children should be able to decode most new words outside their spoken vocabulary, making a good approximation to the word's pronunciation.

Most pupils will not need further direct teaching of word reading skills: they are able to decode unfamiliar words accurately, and need very few repeated experiences of this before the word is stored in such a way that they can read it without overt sound blending.

However, pupils who are still struggling to decode need to be taught to do this urgently through a rigorous and systematic phonics programme so that they catch up rapidly with their peers. If they cannot decode independently and fluently, they will find it increasingly difficult to understand what they read and to write down what they want to say.

As far as possible, however, they should follow the Year 3 and 4 programme of study in terms of listening to new books, hearing and learning new vocabulary and grammatical structures, and discussing these.

Teaching should be directed towards developing the breadth and depth of their reading, making sure that they become independent, fluent and enthusiastic readers who read widely and frequently.

Comprehension

They should develop an understanding and enjoyment of stories, poetry, plays and non-fiction, learning to read silently.

They should develop knowledge and skills in reading non-fiction about a wide range of subjects.

They should learn to justify their views about what they have read with support where necessary.

Decoding	Word Recognition	Comprehension & Understanding	Deducing	Information & Expression	Grammatical Features	Research
For those who	Apply growing	Pupils should be taught to:	Understand what they read,	Confident to attempt	Recognise plurals and	Read books that are
are struggling to	knowledge of root		in books they can read	reading aloud in	collective nouns.	structured in different
decode - apply	words, prefixes and	Develop positive attitudes to reading	independently.	different contexts		ways.
phonic knowledge	suffixes (etymology	and understanding of what they			Recognise	
and skills as the	and morphology) as	read.	Check that the text makes	Understand how	pronouns and how	Read for a range of
route to decode	listed in Appendix		sense to them, discussing their	commas are used to	they are used.	purposes.
words.	1, both to read	Listen to and discuss a wide range of	understanding and explaining	give reading more		
	aloud and to	fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction and	the meaning of words in	meaning.	Identify and discuss	Use dictionaries to
Respond with the	understand the	reference books or textbooks.	context.		how adjectives and	check the meaning of
correct sound to	meaning of new			Can use appropriate	verbs bring reading	words that they have
graphemes for all	words they meet.	Increase familiarity with a wide	Ask questions to improve their	voices for characters	to life.	read.
40+ phonemes,		range of books, including fairy	understanding of a text.	and adopts a story-		
including,	Read further	stories, myths and legends, and retell		telling voice when		
_	exception words,	some of these orally.		needed.		

alternative sounds	noting the unusual	Prepare poems and play scripts to	Draw inferences such as	Identify how	Recognise adverbs	Retrieve and record
for graphemes.	correspondences	read aloud and to perform, showing	inferring characters' feelings,	apostrophes are used	and how they are	information from non-
	between spelling	understanding through intonation,	thoughts and motives from	to show possession in	used in their reading.	fiction.
Read accurately by	and sound, and	tone, volume and action.	their actions, and predicting	reading.	_	
blending sounds in	where these occur		what might happen from		Identify powerful	
unfamiliar words	in the word.	Recognise some different forms of	details stated and implied.		verbs within reading.	
containing GPCs		poetry (e.g. free verse, narrative	,		_	
that have been		poetry)	Identify how language,		Relate tense to text	
taught			structure and presentation		type and structure.	
			contribute to meaning.			
			Participate in discussion about			
			both books that are read to			
			them and those they can read			
			for themselves, taking turns			
			and listening to what others			
			say.			