**St Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School** 

**Policy for Teaching Phonics**

**OVERVIEW**

The teaching of phonics is an integral part of our curriculum and is a high priority for all teachers and teaching assistants in our school. We recognise the importance of a systematic and synthetic approach and we work to build on the foundations of strong phonics teaching to foster a love of reading in all our pupils.

**KEY STRATEGIES: KS1 AND EYFS**

* We follow a systematic approach to teaching of phonic skills. We use Twinkl Phonics as the basis for our teaching of phonics. This is recognised by the government as an accredited synthetic phonic scheme.
* This programme of work teaches pupils to develop a knowledge of letter sounds, how to blend sounds and build and decode words. Pupils will also begin to recognise key sight vocabulary often known as ‘tricky’ words. This includes words that cannot be sounded out.
* We plan and deliver daily 30-minute sessions for all pupils in EYFS and Key Stage 1.
* Pupils are grouped across the Key Stage based on their phonic ability. All pupils are assessed on a regular basis to check their progress and their teaching is adjusted accordingly if required.
* We use a range of multi-sensory strategies to enthuse and engage pupils, including the use of websites, magnetic letters, speaking and listening, songs and rhymes and practical activities.
* Pupils work with pace and are expected to apply their knowledge across the curriculum with any reading or writing activities.
* All pupils in Year 1 take part in the Phonics Screening Check in June. Any pupil that does not pass is re-tested in Year 2 and receives appropriate intervention.

**KEY STRATEGIES KS2**

* KS2 Use the No-Nonsense Spelling programme after the Twinkl Phonics programme and KS1 curriculum have been completed.
* Phonics/Spelling is planned and delivered daily in 30 minute sessions. The whole of KS2 teach phonics/spelling at the same time each day (9.00-9.30am) to enable movement between working groups.
* Children in KS2 will be grouped for phonics/spellings Judgements will be made from phonics/spelling assessments alongside TA of application in independent writing.
* Groups will be routinely reviewed, but further changes can be made between reviews in consultation with Mrs Thorpe
* According to need, some children may work in a different Key Stage for phonics. This will be discussed between parents and staff.
* Weekly spellings will be sent home to practise and develop fluency with. These will be a combination of words that practise spelling patterns or rules and words from children’s personalised spelling lists.