Reading Policy

September 2026 – September 2027

Intent

Our school is committed to fostering a lifelong love of reading among all pupils. We aim to ensure that every child becomes a confident, fluent reader with strong comprehension skills. Our reading programme is designed to support pupils in developing the ability to access, interpret, and evaluate texts, laying a solid foundation for academic success and personal growth. We believe reading is a fundamental skill that empowers children to succeed across all areas of learning and enriches their lives. At St Augustine's we prioritise both learning to read and loving to read through our curriculum and our ethos.

St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

Implementation

Reading is embedded across our curriculum to ensure pupils recognize its value in all areas of learning. We:

- Use a structured phonics programme in the early years to establish foundational reading skills.
- Introduce guided reading to target specific skills and foster deeper understanding of texts.
- Incorporate comprehension strategies such as predicting, questioning, summarizing, and inferring into daily lessons.
- Use reading materials that align with themes and topics across subjects, enhancing cross-curricular links.
- Gradually develop pupils' independent reading skills by providing opportunities to select and enjoy books.

- **Phonics Instruction**: We implement the *Unlocking Letters and Sounds* phonics scheme, a systematic approach, to teach decoding and word recognition. Regular assessments ensure pupils progress through phases at an appropriate pace.
- **Shared Reading**: Teachers model reading strategies and fluency during whole-class sessions, using high-quality, diverse texts.
- **Guided Reading**: Small groups engage with levelled texts under teacher guidance to develop targeted skills.
- **Independent Reading**: Pupils are encouraged to choose books that match their reading level and interests, promoting autonomy.
- **Reading Aloud**: Teachers read to pupils daily, exposing them to complex language and fostering enjoyment.

We provide a broad selection of reading materials that:

- Reflect diverse cultures, languages, and experiences to promote inclusivity.
- Include fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and digital texts.
- Cater to different reading levels to ensure accessibility for all pupils.
- Are well-organised and maintained in our school library and classroom reading areas.

Impact

Reading progress is assessed through:

- Regular formative assessments, such as teacher observations, reading records, and oral discussions.

- Summative assessments, including standardised tests and reading comprehension quizzes.
- Termly reviews of phonics progress to identify and support pupils needing additional help.
- Comprehensive tracking systems to monitor growth and inform planning.

We recognise the importance of partnerships with families and the community in developing strong readers. We:

- Provide workshops for parents on phonics, reading strategies, and supporting reading at home.
- Host events such as book fairs and celebrate World book day.
- Participate in community reading programs.

To cultivate a love of reading, we:

- Celebrate literacy events such as World Book Day and National Poetry Month.
- Display pupils' book reviews, favourite books, and reading achievements in classrooms and common areas.
- Encourage staff to model reading for pleasure by sharing their favourite books and reading aloud regularly.

8. Policy Review and Evaluation

This reading policy will be reviewed annually by the Reading Lead, in consultation with staff, pupils, and parents. Feedback from assessments, observations, and community input will guide necessary updates to ensure the policy remains effective and relevant. Our ultimate goal is to continuously improve our approach to reading, ensuring every child thrives.

To ensure this policy aligns with the values of a Catholic school, it incorporates the teachings and ethos of the Catholic faith. Reading materials and discussions will include texts that reflect Catholic values, moral teachings, and opportunities for spiritual growth, while fostering inclusivity and respect for all cultures and beliefs.