



Reading strategy, including phonics

At The Wildings, we aim to foster a love of reading. Being able to read well enables young people to access the wider curriculum. This means that the development of each young person's reading skills is a priority.

When a young person enters the Wildings, a comprehensive baselining assessment takes place. An integral part of this is to help colleagues understand each young person's reading strengths and areas for development. Each young person begins their learning at the Wildings via a tailored curriculum pathway. Reading will feature in young person's learning through all enquiries. The list of texts associated with the curriculum is available on request.

Colleagues encourage all young people to read as often as possible. The Wildings has a wide variety of reading material, which young people can access freely. The curriculum pathways enable all young people to explore and analyse a variety of texts, covering a wide range of genres. As young people progress through the curriculum, they draw on their previous knowledge to explain features of texts and identify how these are suited to audience and purpose, whilst also expanding on grammar concepts learnt previously. Through reading high quality texts, young people will build a secure understanding of how to write effectively for different purposes. Moreover, they will learn about the world around them. Each young person will build a personalised library of what they have read and are going to read, which will be updated in line with their needs and at least termly.

The Wildings uses the Accelerated Reader scheme to encourage young people to read and to offer a rich diet of material.

For some young people, a key focus of the teaching will be to support their acquisition of phonics knowledge. Our scheme for teaching phonics is Read Write Inc (RWI). We use a wide range of teaching methods and resources to deliver lessons including games, videos and interactive whiteboard activities. A range of phonically decodable books are used for young people to read. These high-quality books, with age-appropriate content, enable the young people to use and apply their phonic skills. Fresh Start is likely to be prominent in the timetable when a young person starts with us. Most young people referred to The Wildings are working below their age-related expectations. If, through their baseline reading assessment, their reading age is measured at lower than 9 years and 6 months, they will access RWI Fresh Start in order to accelerate their recovery. This program will enable colleagues to pinpoint areas of weakness and fast track progress to a level where young people can engage with our Enhancing Author curriculum. As young people progress through to the end of the Fresh Start program, they will transfer to the Accelerated Reader program to support further reading development.

Colleagues carefully consider curriculum balance when phonics is required. To be effective, young people will require daily sessions of between 10 and 30 minutes, depending on the nature of need. Often, there will be capacity in the timetable to enable this to occur without disrupting the time spent teaching the other subjects. Where more time is required, the Principal will ensure that an appropriate balance is achieved - through discussion with colleagues and parents / carers.

Colleagues will frequently listen to each young person read. They will use this knowledge, alongside more formal testing and that from Accelerated Reader, to help them gauge how well each young person is progressing in their reading. Each young person's progress in reading will be the most important academic influence in determining which curriculum pathway the young person is to engage with.

Stage	National curriculum year group	Wildings pathway
P1 P2 P3	EY	Recovery
1	1	Establishing
2	2	
3	3	Developing
4	4	
5	5	Enhancing
6	6	
7	7	Extending
8	8	
9	9	
10	10	Specific
11	11	

The trajectory profile, as detailed in the curriculum policy, is helpful in showing the ambition at The Wildings. If a young person can get back on track with their reading progress, a wealth of opportunities opens up.

