

Southwick's Reading Journey

Our Reading Journey: From Curiosity to Confidence

Reading is at the heart of everything we do at Southwick because we know that strong reading skills allow children to excel across the curriculum, both academically and personally.

At Southwick School, we believe that reading is a journey filled with wonder, imagination and discovery. Every year, the children grow as readers, developing the skills and love for reading that will stay with them for life.

Our curriculum is designed to ignite curiosity, build skills and nurture a lifelong passion for reading. Here is what our reading journey looks like for each year group:

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

In EYFS, we embark on our reading adventure! Through play, songs, and stories, children begin to recognise sounds, letters and simple words. We introduce them to the magic of books, nurturing a love for stories while building essential phonics and comprehension skills. By the end of EYFS, children will start to understand that words carry meaning and stories take us on exciting journeys.

Year 1

In Year 1, we build on our early reading skills, taking our first steps towards reading independently. Through phonics and word-building activities, children start to read familiar words and simple sentences. With books tailored to their level, the children will begin to recognise patterns and develop confidence in reading aloud, fuelling their curiosity and excitement for books.

Year 2

By Year 2, reading becomes a gateway to new worlds and knowledge. Children expand their vocabulary, fluency and comprehension skills as they engage with more varied texts. They learn to ask questions about what they read, make predictions and retell stories, developing a deeper understanding and appreciation for characters and settings. By the end of Year 2, most children can read age-appropriate texts with confidence and independence.

Year 3

In Year 3, children embark on a journey into more complex stories and ideas. They read chapter books, poetry and non-fiction texts, building skills in comprehension and inference. Our students learn to express their thoughts about books and explore different genres, which helps them understand the wider world and sparks their imaginations. By this stage, they become confident readers, ready for new literary adventures.

Year 4

In Year 4, we deepen our exploration of texts, encouraging students to make connections between themes, characters, and real-life experiences. Reading skills become more refined, with a focus on understanding layers of meaning and making inferences. Children are encouraged to discuss their opinions on texts, developing critical thinking and empathy through the characters they meet in books.

Year 5

In Year 5, students become analytical readers, exploring diverse genres, historical periods and cultures through books. They are encouraged to question, analyse and interpret themes and character motivations. In year 5, we emphasise expressive reading and discussions, helping children articulate their ideas and insights. They are empowered to choose books that challenge them and expand their understanding of the world.

Year 6

By Year 6, our children are confident, reflective readers, who can tackle a wide range of complex texts. They have developed strong comprehension skills, the ability to analyse themes critically and an appreciation for nuanced storytelling. As they prepare for secondary school, students are encouraged to think independently, express their opinions and appreciate reading as a lifelong journey of discovery and growth.

Building Lifelong Readers

From EYFS to Year 6, our goal is to nurture capable, curious, and compassionate readers who see reading not only as a skill but also as a source of joy, understanding and empowerment. We are proud of children's progress along their reading journey and look forward to seeing where their love of books takes them next.

