



### **Intent**

At St. Patrick's Catholic Voluntary Academy phonics is a high priority and we are passionate about ensuring all children become confident, enthusiastic and life-long readers and writers. We believe that phonics provides the strong foundations of learning to make the development into fluent reading and writing easier. Our intention is that, through effective teaching of systematic phonics, children learn to segment words to support their spelling ability and blend sounds to read words.

### **Implementation**

At St. Patrick's Catholic Voluntary Academy, we use the Department for Education approved document 'Letters and Sounds' sequence through the KTC's quality first teaching approach for our teaching of phonics. This allows our phonics teaching and learning to be progressive and consistent from our Nursery up to Year 2 and beyond. Children in our Nursery work on Phase One phonics which concentrates on developing their speaking and listening skills and sound discrimination. This lays the foundations for using the sounds they learn in Reception and beyond. As children move into Reception they continue to build on their listening skills and are introduced to Phase Two which marks the start of a systematic phonics approach. They have discrete, daily phonics sessions where they revise previous learning, are taught new graphemes/phoneme correspondences, practise together and apply what they have learnt. Through Letters and Sounds, the children are taught the 44 phonemes that make up all the sounds required for reading and spelling. These phonemes include those made by just one letter and those that are made by two or more. Throughout Key Stage 1, the children work through Phases Three, Four and Five as they grow in confidence and experience; they are then introduced to alternative ways of representing the same sound and therefore strengthen their spelling ability.

### **Impact**

Through the teaching of systematic phonics, our aim is for children to become fluent readers by the end of Key Stage 1. They develop a confidence and a 'can-do' attitude towards reading and therefore their love of reading is fostered both personally and by the staff at St Patrick's. Children can then focus on developing fluency and comprehension throughout the school. Intervention sessions enable a greater proportion of pupils to be on track to meet year group expectations or, in the case of those working significantly below expectations, to make better than expected progress. Our subject leader provides an action plan for the subject and addresses areas for development and improvement annually. Attainment in phonics is measured by the Phonics Screening Test at the end of Year 1.