



Phonics Intent Statement



The Merton Primary School
To be the best we can be.

At The Merton Primary School, we believe that reading is the key to unlocking the curriculum, enabling both success and enjoyment throughout a child's school journey and beyond. Phonics plays a crucial role in this process, providing the foundation for reading and forming the cornerstone of our reading curriculum.

We use a high-quality and rigorous phonics programme called **Read Write Inc**®. This systematic approach introduces sounds, mnemonics for graphemes, and letter formation, all of which are linked to high-quality books. This engages children and excites them to read for pleasure, fostering a love of books alongside a "phonics first" approach to decoding. By doing so, we ensure a clear and concrete link between phonics and reading.

Our carefully developed long-term plan offers a systematic, synthetic phonics approach, with clearly defined expectations from **Reception to Year 2**, and continuing beyond, to ensure that children continue to grow their phonetic knowledge up to **Year 6**.

We aim to provide teaching and learning experiences that enable children to:

- Rapidly learn the alphabetic code: the 150+ graphemes that represent the 44 speech sounds in English.
- Use simple and enjoyable mnemonics to help them quickly grasp letter-sound correspondences.
- Fluently recognise high-frequency words that are not phonically regular (commonly known as 'red words').
- Enjoy phonically decodable books that are closely matched to their growing phonics and red word knowledge, helping to build confidence and fluency.
- Engage with thought-provoking story introductions, prompts for discussion, and opportunities for 'thinking out loud' to support reading comprehension.
- Enjoy and discuss picture books and novels to build background knowledge and deepen understanding of a wide variety of texts.