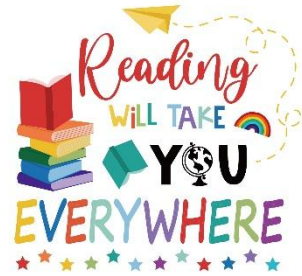




## *The Welbeck Federation Reading Policy*

At The Welbeck Federation, we believe that reading is the foundation of all learning and a lifelong skill that opens doors to knowledge, imagination, and opportunity. Our aim is to foster a love of reading in every child, from the earliest stages in the Infant School through to the Junior years, by providing them with the strategies, confidence, and enthusiasm to become fluent, independent readers.



### *Our Reading Culture*



At The Welbeck Federation, we place a strong emphasis on nurturing a love of reading for pleasure. Our school environment is thoughtfully designed to immerse children in the joy of books, featuring inviting, well-stocked library areas and plenty of opportunities to explore stories independently and with their peers. By fostering a genuine enjoyment of reading, we help children view it not only as a vital skill but as a lifelong source of inspiration and delight.

Each year group is also introduced to a selection of spotlight authors, giving children access to a rich variety of voices, cultures, and perspectives. These carefully chosen authors aim to spark enthusiasm for reading while supporting the development of empathy, critical thinking, and an appreciation for diverse storytelling styles. Through this approach, we strive to nurture confident, curious, and culturally aware readers.

Our Reading River, coming soon, will further enhance this experience by showcasing a vibrant progression of texts that flow alongside our spotlight authors, helping children make meaningful connections between their reading journeys and the authors who broaden their world.

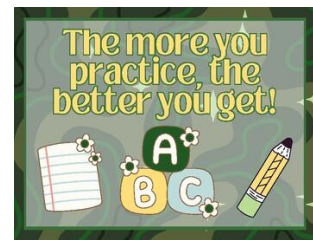
### *Phonics and Early Reading*

We place Early Reading at the heart of our curriculum so that every child develops the strategies to become fluent, confident and enthusiastic readers. We believe that reading will take you everywhere, opening doors to knowledge, imagination, and opportunity.

To maintain a strong and consistent approach to the teaching of reading, we set ambitious expectations for all learners. By making reading central to our vision of *working together on our journey to success*, we ensure it remains the gateway to learning and removes barriers across the whole curriculum. We expect our pupils to *work hard*, and take *pride* in developing the strategies that open doors to future learning and opportunity.

We do this by –

- Delivering high-quality, daily phonics lessons for all children in EYFS and Key Stage 1, and Rapid catch-up for Key Stage 2 children, where needed.
- Embedding a consistent and rigorous approach to the teaching of reading across the whole school.
- Building daily opportunities for every child to practise and apply their reading skills across the curriculum.
- Providing books that are carefully matched to each child’s phonic knowledge, enabling them to experience success and build confidence. *“The better you get at something, the more you enjoy it — and the more you enjoy it, the better you get.”*
- Giving priority to daily 1:1 reading for *focus readers* and *early functional readers* to accelerate progress.



## *Quality First Phonics Teaching*

We follow a DfE validated scheme known as ‘*Little Wandle* LETTERS AND SOUNDS *Revised*’.

The Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised programme provides a clear, structured step-by-step approach to teaching reading, phonics, and spelling. It is a systematic scheme, delivered through carefully designed daily phonics routines, enabling children to master the complexities of the English alphabetic code, while developing rich vocabulary and strong language comprehension skills.

The programme is delivered through daily phonics lessons, including a consistent sequence of teaching and review, supported by regular assessment and targeted keep-up sessions. Staff receive comprehensive training and ongoing continuing professional development to ensure high-quality phonics teaching across the school.

Each child has access to fully decodable books matched to their phonics stage, moving through the programme in a clear progression. Children begin their phonics journey in Nursery and continue through to Year 2. For those who require additional support in

KS2, phonics knowledge is revisited through targeted interventions to ensure continued progress.

***"Reading opens doors — and Little Wandle gives every child the key."***

### ***Daily Reading and Decodable Books***

At The Welbeck Federation, we want our children to feel confident in reading and aim to inspire a love of books from the very start of their learning journey. That is why we prioritise carefully allocating books based on the phonics codes children have learnt, ensuring they have texts that are well matched to their current knowledge. These are known as *decodable books*. At The Welbeck Federation, staff take great care in selecting well matched books, so every reading experience builds success, engagement, and enjoyment — and sets the foundation for a lifelong love of reading.

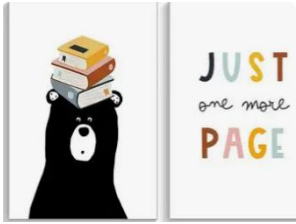
### ***How do we continue to teach reading beyond phonics***

Reading develops through intentional practice, expert guidance, and structured exposure. Children require systematic instruction, modelling, and encouragement to decode words, build vocabulary, and develop comprehension. In line with **The Welbeck Federation's vision of working together on our journey to success**, we promote a culture in which pupils **work hard**, are **kind** and **responsible** learners, and take **pride** in their reading progress. Literacy is not left to chance; it is deliberately cultivated through high expectations and consistent, evidence-informed teaching.

After completing Little Wandle phonics, pupils move into structured reading sessions underpinned by Orbital, our whole-school approach to developing fluent, confident, and expert readers. These sessions combine group and individual reading with targeted knowledge and skills development, introducing pupils to high-quality texts that broaden vocabulary, deepen understanding of diverse genres, and expose them to increasingly complex ideas. Teachers model effective reading behaviours and comprehension strategies to help children understand both what they read and how authors craft meaning, ensuring that reading remains central to every child's journey to success.

Orbital provides the consistent daily routine through which reading fluency, comprehension, and critical thinking are systematically strengthened. Its structure includes repeated reading, enabling pupils to revisit passages, deepen understanding, and experience a genuine sense of mastery. This purposeful repetition not only improves accuracy, pace, and expression but also boosts motivation, as children recognise their progress and grow in confidence. Through this coherent and carefully sequenced approach, every child is equipped with the skills and self-belief needed to thrive as a lifelong reader

## *Individual Reading*



Children are taught how to choose books that match their interests and reading goals, which develops their independent reading stamina. Discussion is a key part of the process: pupils explore themes, characters, and language choices, learning to justify their opinions and respond thoughtfully to others.

Targeted interventions and additional support are provided when needed, ensuring that every child continues to grow as a confident, capable reader. Through this balanced, responsive approach, we nurture lifelong reading habits and empower every child to engage deeply with texts that support their ongoing learning and personal development.



Our vision is that every child leaves The Welbeck Federation with the ability to read fluently, the habit of reading widely and often, and the confidence to engage with texts that will support their continued learning and personal growth.