

Synthetic Phonics: Best Practice Reading Instruction

Academic and government-led research has shown that synthetic phonics is the most effective method for teaching children to read. Synthetic phonics involves identifying sets of letters and sounds; blending the sounds all the way through the word; and then segmenting the word into sounds to spell it.

Fast Phonics: The Essential Synthetic Phonics Programme

Fast Phonics is an online systematic, synthetic phonics programme designed for emergent and early readers, as well as older pupils with gaps in their core reading knowledge. The programme incorporates best practice research to engage and motivate pupils who are learning to read, specifically *Fast Phonics*:

- explicitly and systematically teaches, supports, reinforces and assesses the core phonics skills, including letter–sound correspondence, blending, segmenting and spelling, and syllable manipulation
- includes a range of fun videos, activities, quizzes and decodable books
- aligns with key curriculum initiatives and *Letters and Sounds*
- can be used in discrete, daily classroom practice
- uses a multisensory approach to engage pupils
- includes assessment and reporting tools to personalise a child’s learning experience and inform classroom practise
- supports the development of intrinsic motivation to read, and uses fun rewards, such as upgrades and animations, to encourage pupils to complete tasks and quizzes.

Fast Phonics is Built on Solid Research

The *Fast Phonics White Paper* is an in-depth review of the research literature that supports *Fast Phonics*. As described in the full report, research demonstrates:

- The deep orthography of the English language makes understanding the connection between sounds and written letters (the alphabetic principle) particularly difficult.
- Decades of academic research and comprehensive government reviews in the United Kingdom, United States and Australia have revealed a strong consensus around the importance of systematic phonics instruction during the initial stages of learning to read. Specifically, synthetic phonics is widely recognised as best practice.
- Synthetic phonics is a ‘first and fast’ approach to reading instruction that teaches letter–sound relationships in an explicit and systematic sequence, so that children can rapidly decode words and read independently.
- Synthetic phonics gained prominence following a longitudinal research project in Clackmannanshire, Scotland, which linked this approach to remarkable gains in pupils’ reading abilities. Additionally, in 2006, the Rose Report concluded that ‘the case for systematic phonic work is overwhelming and much strengthened by a synthetic approach’.
- High quality assessment and reporting features should be included in reading programmes.
- Motivation is vital to learning new skills. Children need to build their confidence when learning to read to ensure they become intrinsically motivated to practice this skill. Children also respond positively to external rewards.
- Online phonics programmes can improve children’s literacy.

Fast Phonics is the systematic, synthetic phonics programme that provides a strong foundation for pupils’ reading skills and confidence to support their successful school trajectory. The playful nature and rewarding elements of the programme keep children motivated to learn, laugh and see what’s next.