

Purpose:

Reading fluency creates the fundamental building blocks for literacy. It forms the basis for understanding texts, enabling students to decode words accurately and comprehend written materials effectively.

Proficient fluency is essential for comprehension. When students can read fluently, they can focus more on understanding the meaning of the text rather than struggling with decoding individual words.

When students can read fluently, their vocabulary, spelling, and grammar tend to improve as they encounter various words and sentence structures in texts.

Assessment:

Teachers will listen to students read aloud to understand the individual progression and needs of each student. With this information, teachers can focus on bridging gaps in understanding.

Teachers will evaluate a student's ability to decode by using phonics rules, recognising sight words, and applying decoding strategies when encountering unfamiliar words.

Students should be encouraged to read in small group reading sessions, partner reading, and independent reading time, to assess fluency, comprehension and engagement.

Cross curriculum:

Science: In science and technical subjects, students encounter complex terminology, jargon, and technical terms. Proficient word reading helps them decode and understand these terms, facilitating comprehension of scientific concepts and principles.

History: Reading historical texts, documents, and primary sources requires strong word reading and fluency skills. Students need to comprehend the language used in historical documents to grasp the context accurately.

Maths: Students need strong reading skills to decipher what a question is asking and to comprehend mathematical concepts explained in textbooks.

Art and Music: Reading instructions, descriptions, or historical contexts related to art and music necessitates strong word reading abilities.

Physical Education: Reading instructions for various physical activities or understanding health-related information involves word reading and comprehension skills.

Key Stage or stage breakdown:

Stages 1 and 2: Students will start by learning phonics and decoding skills. They will learn letter-sound correspondence and begin blending sounds to read simple CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words. Students will be introduced to digraphs and trigraphs. Students will learn alternative spellings and pronunciations, exploring different ways to pronounce certain sounds. For fluency development, there should be an emphasis on accuracy, speed and expression.

Stages 3 – 6: Students will expand their vocabulary and encounter more complex words and sentence structures. They will continue to build on their phonics skills and sight vocabulary, improving their ability to decode unfamiliar words, using phonics knowledge and context clues. Students will aim to read with increased speed, accuracy, and expression. They will read various genres and types of texts, enhancing their comprehension and ability to read silently while maintaining fluency.

Stages 7 – 9: Students at this stage will encounter more challenging texts across subjects. They will refine their decoding skills and expand their vocabulary further, learning to derive meaning from context and contextually complex words. At this stage, the development of reading fluency goes beyond decoding skills and emphasises deeper comprehension, critical analysis and engagement with a variety of texts. The focus shifts from learning to read to reading to learn.