



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Information about the Year 1 Phonics Screening Test

How is Phonics taught in our school?

There are planned programmes for the teaching of phonics and reading across the school. Teaching matches the needs and ability of individual pupils that supports appropriate progression.

At St Joseph's, we use the recommended synthetic phonics programme, 'Read Write Inc'.

Year 1 Phonics Screening

The Phonics Screening Check is designed to show how well your child can use the phonics skills they've learned up to the end of Year 1, and to identify students who need extra phonics help. The Department for Education defines the checks as "short, light-touch assessments" that take about four to nine minutes to complete.

What's on it?

The checks consist of 40 words and non-words (made up, pseudo words) that your child will be asked to read one-on-one with their teacher. Non-words are a collection of letters that will follow phonics rules your child has been taught, but don't mean anything - your child will need to read these with the correct sounds to show that they understand the phonics rules behind them.

You can download a sample Year 1 Phonics Screening Check from the Department for Education website to get an idea of what your child will be asked to do.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/299970/phonics_screening_check_sample_materials - Answer sheet.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/299970/phonics_screening_check_sample_materials_-_Answer_sheet.pdf)

When is it?

We will administer the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check in June.

Does my child have to take it?

Yes - all students in Year 1 must take the Screening Check.

What will my child's score mean?

Your child will be scored against a national standard, and the main result will be whether or not they fall below, within or above this standard. If your child's score falls below the standard, they will be given extra phonics help and can retake the Phonics Screening Check in Year 2.

How can I help my child prepare?

Your child will have enjoyed fun phonics activities in class which will have prepared them for the screening check. However, your child will benefit from some additional activities at home to supplement those taught in class. Please remember to keep the sessions short and frequent, rather than one very long session. The sessions at home should be fun - for example, your child may be the "Teacher" and teach their sounds to a cuddly toy or younger sibling!

Please remember to encourage and praise your child. In teaching and learning phonics in this way, the aim is improve reading and writing skills in young children. We also aim to promote the love of reading in all children.

As always, the best support you provide your child with is to listen to them read regularly and encourage them as much as possible.

We hope that this has helped to answer any questions that you may have had regarding the Year One Phonics Screening check.

Suggested phonics activities

- Playing phonics games on the computer such as Obb and Bob on <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/PicnicOnPluto.html>
- You could make bingo games or domino games using different sounds such as ch, sh, igh, oa, ay, ee, oo, or, ng.
- Read a selection of books and be "Sounds Detectives" hunting for the phonemes, for e.g, "Can you hunt for the word with the "ee" sound in this sentence?"
- Give your child 3 sounds (ee, oa, igh) and yourself 3 sounds (ch,sh,th) and as you share a story together, count how many times each sound occurs. The winner is the person who has found the most target sounds.
- Share some e-book stories from Oxford Reading Tree E-books for free. www.oxfordowl.co.uk/