



The Catholic High School, Chester
Literacy, Reading and EAL Offer

At The Catholic High School, Chester all students get:

- A Reading and Spelling assessment at the start of Year 7.
- A Reading assessment at the end of Year 9.
- All in-year admissions have a Reading assessment when they start.
- Whole class teaching of Academic Reading across the curriculum using pre/during/after reading strategies to improve comprehension.
- Ten minutes of independent reading at the start of every English lesson.
- KS3: one English lesson dedicated to reading per fortnight.
- Direct instruction of tier 2 and 3 vocabulary across the curriculum, supported by Knowledge Organisers.
- A strong reading culture where reading is valued, and a dynamic library with many opportunities for students to develop their love of reading.
- Use of COPS across the curriculum.
- One form time a week dedicated to developing literacy skills.

What else do we do?:

- Dyslexia Screener for students who staff or parents feel may be showing dyslexic tendencies.

EAL Support:

- At least one hour per week of small group English for those students with most need of support with the language.
- Students who come to us with little or no English receive more intensive support to begin with.

Out of the classroom, there are interventions and support for the lowest 20% of readers and those with below average levels of literacy skills:

Key Stage 3 and 4

- Support in lessons to look at how students can apply strategies across the curriculum.
- Learning plans on Provision Mapper with personalised targets and strategies for staff to use across the curriculum.

KS3

- One hour a week of small group literacy – focusing on developing literacy skills through a range of curriculum topics.
- Form time spelling sessions once a week – using a phonics-based approach and looking at strategies for spelling.
- Reading Plus – an online program for those students receiving literacy support. Students are encouraged to use this at home to further develop their skills.
- Two Reading assessments per year to assess progress.

KS4

- One hour a fortnight of small group literacy – focusing on GCSE English curriculum and skills. Spelling strategies are also incorporated.

What we would like to do:

- Develop our outreach work with parents and families so that we are all working towards supporting our students to achieve in the best way we can.

'Supporting struggling readers is likely to require a coordinated effort across the curriculum and a combination of approaches that include phonics, reading comprehension and oral language approaches. No particular strategy should be seen as a panacea, and careful diagnosis of the reasons why an individual pupil is struggling should guide the choice of intervention strategies.'

EEF: Reading Comprehension Strategies Key Findings, July 2021