

Approach to Literacy Instruction

At St Joseph's, our teaching is grounded in the Science of Reading – decades of research on how the brain learns to read. Because reading isn't natural like talking, we explicitly teach children the "code" of the English language, moving away from word guessing toward confident decoding and deep comprehension.

Foundational Literacy (P-1)



In Prep – Year 1, students focus on word recognition, phonics, and oral language. Students are explicitly taught letter-sound rules to decode words accurately for reading and spell them for writing.

At Home: Prompt your child to "sound it out" using their letter sounds rather than guessing from pictures, and keep reading rich stories to them daily.

The Transition Phase (Year 2)



In Year 2, students bridge the gap from learning to read to reading to learn. As decoding becomes automatic, their focus shifts to reading fluently, exploring complex texts, and mastering spelling, grammar, and text types in their writing.

At Home: Encourage daily reading practice to build smooth fluency, and talk about new vocabulary words you encounter together.

Middle Years (Y3-6)



Students use reading as a tool to gain deep background knowledge across science, history, and literature. Instruction expands into advanced vocabulary, word roots, and analysing complex texts to craft sophisticated writing.

At Home: Discuss open-ended questions about what they are reading, talk about current events, and encourage them to explore different book genres.