

# Teaching Phonics at St. Paul's

At St. Paul's we use 'Sound Discovery' to teach phonics.

Sound Discovery® is a high quality synthetic phonics literacy programme developed by Ridgehill Publishing for the teaching of reading, spelling and writing.

It is suitable for first-time learners, slow-to-start learners and dyslexic learners of all ages, including adults. It is also suitable for first time teaching of children and adults when English is being taught as an additional language.

**Sound Discovery® meets the criteria** as defined in the Rose Review of what constitutes "high quality phonic work":

- Fully compatible with a broad and rich curriculum
- Systematic, with a clearly defined and structured progression for learning all the major grapheme/phoneme correspondences: digraphs, trigraphs, adjacent consonants and alternative graphemes for the same sound.
- Capable of being delivered in discrete daily sessions at a brisk pace that is well matched to children's developing abilities.
- Underpinned by a synthetic approach to blending phonemes in order all through a word to read it, and segmenting words into their constituent phonemes to spell them.
- Clear that blending and segmenting are reversible processes.
- Multi-sensory, encompassing various visual, auditory and kinaesthetic activities which actively engage children (for example, manipulating magnetic or other solid letters to build words, activities involving physical movement to form letter shapes).
- Clear about the importance of speaking and listening as the foundation for embarking on a systematic phonics programme and for acquiring the skills of reading and writing.
- Offer guidance on how to assess progress and use this information to inform the next steps of learning.
- Offer guidance about adapting the programme for children with special educational needs or who have missed earlier elements.