

Primary Education in 2007

- 4.1 million primary pupils in 17361 primary schools taught by 197100 teachers aided by 163200 teaching assistants. PTR 21.8. PAR 12.4
- Average class size is 26.2
- The smallest school has one pupil the largest has nearly 1000 pupils. Average size approx 300 pupils
- 10% primary schools in very deprived urban areas
- 16% children eligible for free school meals
- 22% children from ethnic minority groups
- 13% children first language other than English.

The Primary Curriculum

FOUNDATION	PRIMARY	KEY STAGE 3
Communication, language and literacy	English	Eng
	Languages	MFL
Problem solving, reasoning and numeracy	Mathematics	Ma
	Science	Sc
	Technology	D&T
Knowledge and understanding of the world	History	Hi
	Citizenship	Cit
	Geography	Gg
Creative development	ICT	ICT
	Art and design	A&D
Physical development	Music	Mu
	PE	PE
Personal, social and emotional development	RE	RE
	Personal development	PSHE (PW, EW & FC)

Cross-curricular dimensions and personal development

Speaking and Listening

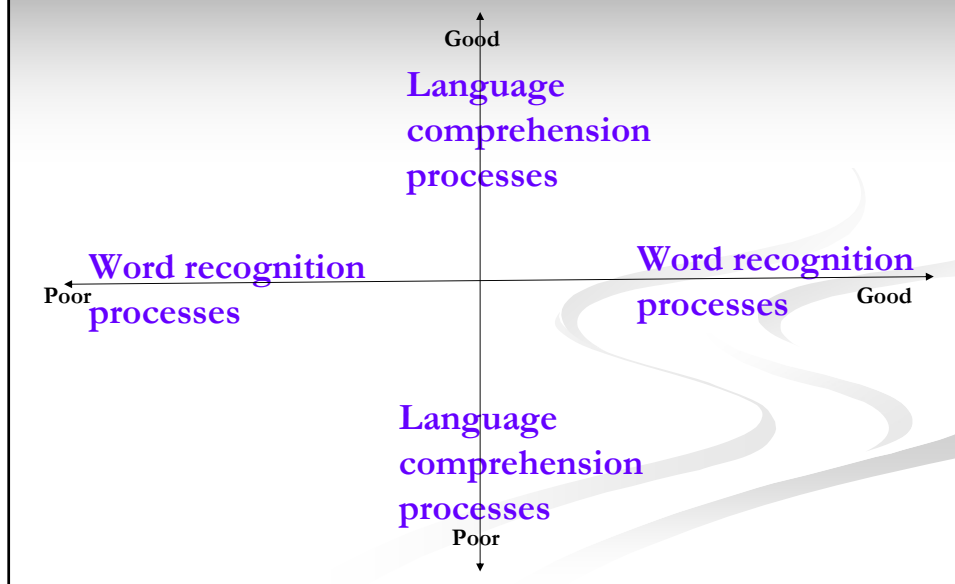
Reading and writing feed off speaking and listening.

- ‘Far more attention needs to be given, right from the start, to promoting speaking and listening skills to make sure that children build a good stock of words, learn to listen attentively and speak clearly and confidently.’

SIMPLE VIEW OF READING: KEY POINTS

- Two distinct processes in learning to read:
 - **Word recognition**
 - **Language comprehension**
- Teaching should promote effective learning of both processes
- High quality phonic work is best means for securing word recognition and ‘automaticity’
- Comprehension is the the ultimate goal

SIMPLE VIEW OF READING



The Alphabetic Principle

- Beginner readers must be taught how the alphabet works for reading and writing - the alphabetic principle.
- Understanding how to decode for reading and to encode for spelling requires direct teaching.
- It is hard to comprehend connected text if word recognition is inaccurate and laborious.

SYSTEMATIC PHONIC WORK

‘These findings show that **systematic** phonics instruction produced superior performance in reading compared to all types of unsystematic or no phonics instruction

Phonics instruction is **systematic** when all the major grapheme-phoneme correspondences are taught in a clearly defined sequence’

Linnea Ehri ‘Systematic phonics instruction: findings of the National Panel of Reading’

KEY FEATURES OF HIGH QUALITY PHONIC WORK

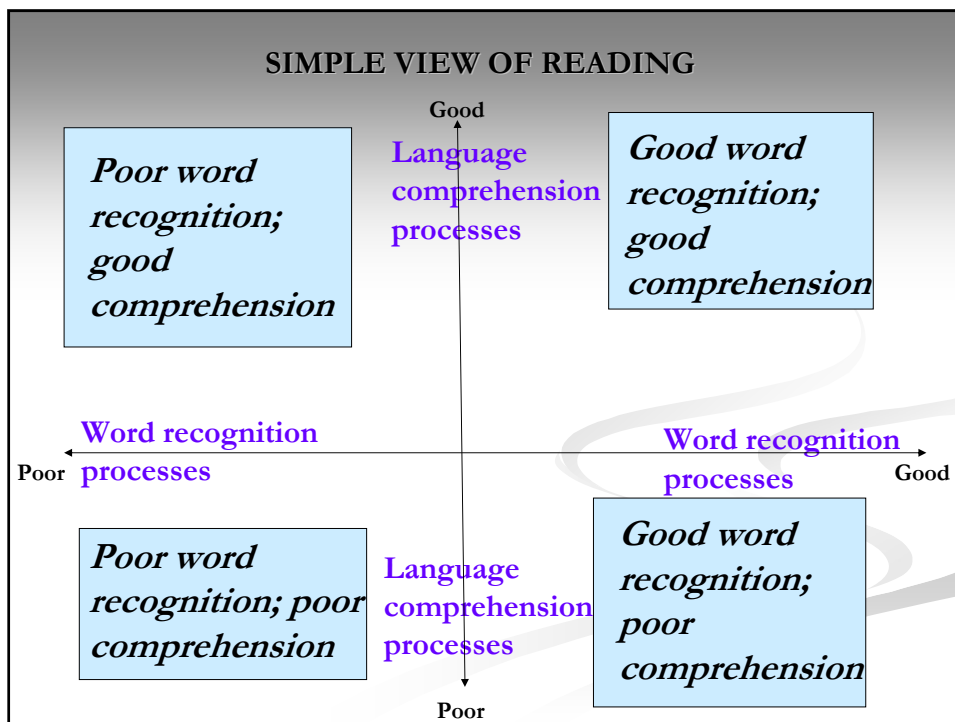
- Teaches letter/sound (grapheme/phoneme) correspondences in a clearly defined incremental sequence
- **Blends** phonemes all through the word in the order in which they occur
- **Segments** words into their constituent phonemes to spell – ‘reversibility principle’
- Short, discrete, daily sessions taught within a broad and rich curriculum
- Multi-sensory, engaging, enjoyable
- Time limited - emphasis changes from ‘learning to read to reading to learn’

Purpose

Children learn to read so that they can read to learn.

Phonic work is a time limited process – most children acquire phonic skills by the age of seven (end of Key stage 1).

Comprehension – developing the abilities necessary for understanding and appreciating written text in different content areas and literary genres continues throughout the lifespan.



Three Waves of Provision

- **Wave 1:** the effective inclusion of all children in daily, 'quality first teaching';
- **Wave 2:** additional interventions to enable children to work at age-related expectations or above;
- **Wave 3:** additional, highly personalised interventions, e.g. specifically targeted approaches for children identified as requiring Special Educational Needs (SEN) support.

McKinsey Report 2007: How the best performing school systems come out on top.

- 'The quality of an education system cannot exceed the quality of its teachers'
- 'The only way to improve outcomes is to improve instruction'
- What do we need to do to make sure our primary schools and teacher training arrangements secure world class teaching?

Phonics can be fun

**Extract from a church bulletin:
This evening at 7 pm there will
be hymn singing in the park
across from the church.
Bring a blanket and come
prepared to sin.**